

Arthur Miall
18 Bowdrie Street
E.C.

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. XXIV.—NEW SERIES, No. 953.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 1864.

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Ecclesiastical Affairs.

FIRMNESS AND TACT ILLUSTRATED.

THE meeting of Parliament to-morrow, the possibility, not to say the probability, that the Session may close only to make way for a general election, and the well-understood intention of the friends of religious equality to concentrate their efforts upon the constituent bodies, naturally bring afresh under view the electoral policy recently determined upon by the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society, and endorsed by several Conferences of their friends held in several parts of the country. We are not about to discuss this subject anew. We believe that such difference of opinion concerning it as was first disclosed, has vanished in proportion as the real proposals of the Committee have been cleared of misapprehension, and we are confident that the wisdom of the policy will be justified by its fruits. But the past week happens to have furnished us with two illustrations of the way in which the firm stand taken by the Liberation Society is likely to affect the future representation, and we cannot resist the temptation of using them for the encouragement of its more hesitating adherents.

Our first reference will be to a meeting of the Liberals at Bradford, held on Thursday evening last, at the instance of the Committee of the Liberal Registration Association, to consider "the present position of the Liberal party with respect to the reform question, and the approaching general election." We should deem it unworthy alike of our own character and of the object we seek to commend to the judgment of our readers, to make more of what was agreed to at that meeting than the persons present at it evidently intended. Their main object was to protest against the scandalous infraction by Liberals of the pledges by virtue of which they had won their seats. They did not come together for the purpose of drawing up a new programme of policy for the Liberal party. They disclaimed any such intention. But amongst the instances adduced in their second resolution to show the inadequate extent to which the people are represented in the House of Commons, they give prominence to "the continuance of such anomalies and iniquities as Church-rates," and "the Irish Church," as well as to "the enormous expenditure and unequal taxation of the country," and although the distinct mention of these topics in the resolution was objected to by a gentleman present, as calculated to distract the attention of Liberals from the one great object of Parliamentary reform, the meeting preferred, after some discussion, to retain these exemplifications. Of the views held by the Bradford reformers on either of the ecclesiastical questions referred to we never entertained a doubt—but we contend that they have done good service by informing the country, though only in an incidental manner, that their ideas of Liberalism will not

be satisfied by a course of legislation which excludes these and similar topics from the consideration and efforts of so-called Liberal statesmen.

The second illustration is furnished by the important borough of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and is not the less satisfactory because the object of the meeting was exclusively local. The meeting was a preliminary one, convened for the purpose of taking into consideration the representation of the borough in the event of a general election. It was resolved that the present state of the representation of the borough is not satisfactory—that any candidate entitled to the support of the independent electors should be prepared to vote for a comprehensive measure of Parliamentary reform, *religious freedom*, retrenchment, and non-intervention—and that a committee be appointed to look out for a suitable candidate, to call a public meeting, and to submit the whole question of the representation to the people for consideration. Convinced as we are that the phrase "religious freedom" is no unmeaning generalisation in the thoughts of the men who carried these resolutions, we see in the whole proceedings of the meeting a practical embodiment of the policy aimed at by the Liberation Society. Newcastle is represented at present by two Whigs. The more advanced reformers of that borough deem themselves entitled to nominate at least one of the two members. In looking out for a candidate they bear in mind that his success will require the hearty support of the Nonconformist electors—and they take care to stipulate beforehand that he shall not give the go-by to principles and measures in which they are especially interested. In a word, there is a fair agreement at starting that the friends of religious equality shall have the share to which their numbers entitle them, not only of the work to be done, but of the advantages to be realised.

It is chiefly in the way indicated by the above-mentioned meetings that we expect the electoral policy of the Liberation Society to bear fruit. Liberal constituencies have become so far dissatisfied with merely nominal Whigs, that, quite independently of the Conservative tendencies of the latter on ecclesiastical questions, the former feel themselves compelled to force a partial change, at least, in their representation. The true importance and practical value of the step recently taken by the Executive Committee will appear in the fact that henceforth the wishes of Dissenters will not, as heretofore, be left out of consideration in the selection of a fitting candidate. We make bold to predict that wherever in boroughs accustomed to return Liberal members to the House of Commons, both or either of them shall be dismissed, the rule will in future be to seek to fill up the vacant seat or seats with men equally acceptable to the Dissenting and to the reforming portions of the constituencies. And besides the direct gain which will be thus secured to the cause of religious equality, it will receive immense indirect advantage by the influence which will be brought to bear by the same process upon the views and conduct of those Whig members who are suffered to remain. In very few instances, we are convinced, if in any, will the manly assertion of their rights by the friends of ecclesiastical change, introduce disunion into the ranks of the Liberal electors. In most, on the contrary, it will present a new bond of union, and a fresh source of life. If, as at Bradford and Newcastle, the advance be made in a courteous, friendly, and judicious manner, we are confident that in the great majority of cases it will be met with all that consideration which Englishmen customarily concede to what they cannot but admit is equitable and reasonable. Dissenters will be none the less respected for insisting upon that measure of respect which is fairly their due.

The smooth working of this electoral policy, however, will be dependent, to a much larger extent than upon other causes, upon its *timely* application. In the preliminary arrangements necessary to secure effective Parliamentary repre-

sentation, much may be done without giving offence, which, if attempted for the first time during the excitement of a pending election, might occasion great irritation. Our claims should be advanced while the ground is comparatively clear. We shall profit far more by following the guidance of good sense and good feeling than by a surprise resembling in any degree a *coup d'état*. In point of fact, it is found that the reduction of our plans to practice divests them of much about them that looked theoretically doubtful, if not formidable. What has already occurred enforces upon us this counsel—to be unflinching, to select the right occasions for urging our claims, to advocate them in a friendly spirit, and especially to take time by the forelock, that there may be no frustration of arrangements already entered into.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

WE understand, on good authority, that it is the intention of the Government, during the coming session of Parliament, to issue a Royal Commission to inquire into the working of subscription. We are not at present aware whether the subject of clerical subscription only is intended to be comprised within the sphere of the Commissioners' inquiries, or whether those inquiries will extend to the question of subscription generally, including, of course, those declarations which are made compulsory at the national universities. From the manner in which the Government met Mr. Bouverie's motion in the last session of Parliament, we should imagine that the intention is not to confine the proposed inquiry to the subscription required of clergymen. On the last question we have frequently expressed our opinion. We should be grateful, for the sake of the reputation of many Christian teachers, if the present declaration required of clergymen were abolished; but we have never been able to see that this would place that large number of the clergy who have expressed a desire for their abolition in a very much better moral position than that which they now occupy. They would continue to use the Prayer-book; and, doing so, would, by their acts, sanction all and everything which the terms of subscription now formally bind them to sanction. The difference would be apparent, and not real. They now accept everything, and declare that they accept it; in future they would accept it without the previous declaration. The consciences of clergymen could, we apprehend, obtain very little relief without Liturgical revision accompanying the abolition of the present form of declaration. We doubt, however, whether the Government is prepared to go so far as to recommend a revision of the Prayer-book. A Whig Administration never yet initiated anything more than a temporary compromise of reform.

We say a "Whig Administration," for the only Liberals that the present Cabinet comprises are watch-dogs brought into silence respecting their principles and acquiescence with stagnation, by the gift of office. When another rule shall come, they will be remembered as men who allied themselves to and supported the worst Liberal Administration that modern times have seen. They have actively helped to ruin the Liberal cause, to make it contemptible to the people, and to make the Government as burdensome as it can possibly be. They, and they only, have paved the way to a reign of Toryism. They have made some of the best members of the Liberal party almost sigh for a return to office of Lord Derby and Mr. Disraeli. No doubt, when they are in opposition, they will return to their old ranks, and we hope they will give signs of being men who are anxious to redeem their reputations, and of again being trusted. Nor do we doubt that their lips will then be opened on every question, ecclesiastical and other, on which, for years past, they have resolutely been closed. Well, well! For how many years is it that we have done

without their services? For just so many, at least, shall we be able to do without them when they may be anxious to press themselves upon us. Good reader, you know their names, and whether they have appeared on Liberal platforms or not, before,—do not trust them again! Have a wholesome care of men who sell your birthright, as well as their own, for a "mess of pottage." We shall see, on the subscription question, whether they, as well as others, are willing to relieve a clerical grievance, but leave untouched a Dissenter's right.

Give us, rather, the outspoken service of our Church contemporaries, and certainly, nothing could be more outspoken than the language in which they have now addressed us. The late Norwich conference is the theme of every Church newspaper. The *Press* and the *English Churchman* we pass by, for it is scarcely worth while to transfer mere raving and ribaldry to our columns. The *Guardian* and the *Clerical Journal* are, however, respectable opponents. The first-named journal bears very eulogistic testimony to the resources of the Liberation party:—

"The near approach of the Parliamentary session has stirred up the 'Liberation Society' to a renewed demonstration of the activity which never suffers us long to rest without substantial evidence of its existence. Any measure of success is used only as a stimulus to higher efforts, and repeated failures serve but to suggest a new line of policy and varied methods of aggression. Such perseverance has often produced important results. By these means principles founded on truth have sooner obtained public recognition, and half truths have been forced on the acceptance of majorities which neither understood their merits nor appreciated their consequences. There is hardly any conceivable change which thus advocated may not by possibility be brought to pass under some favourable conjuncture of political circumstances, unless the principle attacked be not only founded on justice and rooted in popular affection, but upheld by an organised body of consistent advocates under a sense of its paramount importance.

Representing the other side of the question, which Voluntaries are now endeavouring to elevate to its right importance, the *Guardian* remarks that "in proportion to the pertinacity of these attacks must be the difficulty felt by Churchmen in contributing to the political influence of those whose hostility to the Church is never postponed to any other object of their policy," and that an obligation rests on Churchmen to counteract pressure from the other quarter.

This is our contemporary's reading of the mutual relations of the Liberal party and the Dissenters:—

It is difficult to assent to Mr. Miall's assertion that in the alliance between Liberal Churchmen and political Dissenters, the former have hitherto had the advantage. Office and patronage have been shared between them, and Dissenters have been encouraged and aided to grasp at as much of the Church's heritage as the temper of the time seemed at all likely to suffer to be impeached. If only the joint effort could have availed, the immediate reward would have been already reaped, and the ulterior object full in view. The coalition has failed because the magnitude of the sacrifices demanded by one of its members excited an alarm which the utmost willingness on the other side to grant them could not overcome. Mr. Miall probably knows best how much further his Liberal allies will allow themselves to be squeezed in future, but, perhaps from disappointment with the result, he seems greatly to undervalue their past services. Very hard measure will have been dealt to the members of the House of Commons who have reluctantly taken and fulfilled anti-Church-rate pledges, if they are to be reduced to the dilemma of either incurring contempt by submitting to the dictation of the Liberation Society, or losing their seats by its opposition.

The *Guardian* does not, at present, recommend the adoption of any practical measures in opposition to those which have received the sanction of Dissenters. It is, perhaps, of opinion that it would be well for the Dissenters to separate themselves wholly from the Liberal party. There would then be a divided Tory party opposed to an equally divided Liberal ditto, and hence a prospect of maintaining things as they are. The *Guardian* does not appear to consider that the Liberal party is no more able to do without the support of Dissenters than the Tory party is able to do without the support of Churchmen. Such, however, being the case, it simply remains to ask, which party, in the long run, is making the most progress? To what recent Tory triumphs can the *Guardian* point? Is it not the fact that every Liberal triumph is now accepted by all parties as having been proved to be a boon to the people at large? The purpose of Dissenters is to keep this party, to which they have allied themselves, strung up to their own principles. They believe that the best means of attaining this object will be to refuse their support to those who have proved themselves to be inconsistent members of that party.

The *Clerical Journal* is inclined to consider the declarations made at the recent conference as a confession of the utter failure of the Nonconformist agitation. It therefore thinks that the resolution to abstain from Parliament is "a wise one," but that "it would still be more so if the opponents of the

Church of England who worship in peace without her pale would give up as hopeless the efforts they make to disestablish her." But there is the question. We cannot, if we would, get out of "the pale" of the Establishment, and most certainly we do not worship in peace. Churchmen must cease to trouble us and cease to enforce their formularies on us as the religion of the nation before they can use these words. The *Journal* is now sanguine that the "star of rising Voluntarism" will not again culminate at St. Stephen's, and that the descendants of the present generation of Dissenters "will eschew the principles of their forefathers, and become useful members of the Church of England." We recollect, as we read this, that a certain bishop told Mr. Howe that Dissent would not last beyond the generation of the Ejected. The *Journal*, notwithstanding this belief, calls its friends to arms. But why should it arm against a dying foe? Surely it cannot be worth while to sound a trumpet to attack a moribund army? If the majority of Church newspapers are sincere in what they now say, the host of Churchmen have only to stand still, and they will see the Liberation party dissolve into thin air; or, like Mr. Dickens's hero, die of spontaneous combustion, and leave not a bone behind. If they believe so, we shall see the offices of the Church Institution and the Committee of Laymen closed, not in bankruptcy, but in triumph.

Instead of this, however, what do we actually see? At the meeting of the Church Institution on Wednesday last, while it is reported that the society is 600% in debt, it is also reported that its income has risen to upwards of 2,000L. With a part of this increased income it is proposed to employ a professional gentleman to meet Mr. John Bennett, of Serjeants'-inn, whenever the usually successful services of that gentleman [are engaged] by the abolitionists of any parish. The Institution has also just issued an elaborate address to Churchmen throughout the Kingdom, in which it details the work of the Liberation Society, and enlarges upon the necessity of combined action in order successfully to cope with it. Ah! there is no belief either in the decadence of "political Dissent," or in the decay of our political strength. It is rather felt that the utmost energies of Tory Churchmen, stimulated and supported by every external agency that can be summoned into action, will be necessary to cope with the new power which new plans are likely to develop.

Since our last issue these plans have received a fresh sanction. The proceedings of the West Riding Conference, held at Halifax on Wednesday last, will, we think, prove not less interesting than the proceedings of similar recent gatherings. The large towns of this Riding have now added their sanction to the plans of the Liberation Society. The Dissenters of Leeds, Huddersfield, Halifax, Bradford, and other places, have adopted, without reserve, the policy to which we avowedly attach so much importance. In another month or less the Midland Counties will meet to discuss the same programme.

Some time ago we opened our columns to a discussion of the question of Denominational Union. The *Freeman* newspaper, *apropos* to the publication in the "Congregational Year-book" of Mr. Morley's paper on trust-deeds, has returned to this question. As the subject is both an interesting and an important one, we subjoin some of the remarks of our contemporary. On the question of creeds it pronounces as follows:—

Unquestionably, any man or body of men have a right, if they deem it worth while, to provide for the perpetual profession and preaching of his or their particular creed. Or rather they have a right to try to do this, for it needs but scant knowledge of human nature to predict the inevitable failure of the attempt. But to our thinking it is equally unquestionable that this is not the best way to promote the cause of truth and of religion; and such, we take for granted, is the object both we and our fathers had and still have at heart.

Denominational restrictions are thus dealt with:—

But how about the preservation of denominational interests? Are we to leave them altogether out of sight? Well, we acknowledge the pertinence of the question, and at the same time its considerable delicacy and difficulty. We have not space now to give the reasons for our opinion,—we may possibly before long have our say upon that and some other subjects, incidentally raised by Mr. Morley's paper,—but we are not prepared to unite in the cry for the union of the two denominations which is being raised in some quarters just now. We think it a mistake to identify denominational fusion with Christian union. We believe that the great principle for which we, as Baptists, witness, deserves and claims the prominence which it can only obtain by being made the distinction of a denomination. Even on this point, however, we should be jealous of imposing our views upon our successors, should desire not to put unnecessary technical obstacles in the way of future amalgamation, if our posterity should arrive at the conclusion that such amalgamation would be for the interest of the cause and Kingdom of Christ. Personally, we should have no fear or anxiety for our denominational principles, even if all reference to the subject of baptism were omitted from our deeds. Our Pædo-

baptist friends, we believe, have more to fear from concession on this point than we. But if denominational provisions are deemed desirable, let them be as simple and as general as may be. Let them not be framed as if on purpose to perpetuate needless divisions which are fast becoming divisions only in name and organisation. Let the terms of communion, and even of church-membership, be left for the church, in the exercise of its liberty, to decide.

Our readers will see that another branch of this subject is discussed by "A Baptist Minister" in our columns this week.

WEST RIDING CONFERENCE OF THE LIBERATION SOCIETY.

Last Wednesday a conference, convened by the West Riding branch of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State-Patronage and Control, was held at the Square-road School-room, Halifax. The attendance of both ministers and laymen, belonging to the several denominations of Dissenters, from the towns and villages of the West Riding, was very numerous, and while the subjects brought forward were deemed to be of the most vital importance to the future operations of the society, they were discussed in the most friendly and catholic spirit, and were passed all but unanimously. Mr. Carvell Williams, of London, and Mr. Handel Cossham, of Bristol, attended as a deputation from the Executive Committee of the society.

On the motion of the Rev. J. C. GRAY, seconded by the Rev. W. ROBERTS, Mr. Alfred Illingworth, of Bradford, was called upon to preside. On the motion of the Rev. W. HEWGILL, M.A., seconded by the Rev. B. DALE, M.A., the Rev. J. H. Ryland and the Rev. T. Michael were appointed secretaries of the conference.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening address, said that any gentleman who had taken the trouble, during the past few years, to read the Parliamentary reports, and who had noticed the course of events, must have seen that the society had been able to work advantageously upon Parliament, and to exercise an influence upon its members. They had succeeded in securing some small concessions, but Parliament was now closed against them, and they were in a position to reconsider their tactics, and to determine upon an altered course. No question which could be at all considered identified with the objects of that association ought to be overlooked. If they looked at the way in which many of their measures had been kicked out of the House of Commons, it might be a question as to whether the past policy of the Liberation Society was one that ought to be adopted in future. The time had arrived when they ought to occupy a front position, and not be ashamed of their principles, but make them the leading questions of the day. He hoped that the conference would come to a unanimous decision on these points, for the time had now arrived when the question of their electoral policy ought to be brought before the country.

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND, of Bradford, read the report, which detailed the proceedings of the West Riding committee, appointed at the Bradford conference in December, 1862. These referred chiefly to the appointment of an agent, and a record of his visits and labours in holding meetings, giving lectures, circulating the society's publications, forming committees, and appointing correspondents. The places visited were very numerous, including the towns and villages in all parts of the riding. The agency had been of essential service in drawing attention to the society's principles and objects, and had prepared the way for future operations. Bradford was mentioned as having more than doubled its amount of contributions. The report concluded by urging that the efforts of the committee should be vigorously followed up during the present year.

Mr. JOHN CROSSLEY then moved the first resolution—

That, in receiving the report now read, the conference expresses satisfaction at the efforts which have been made to diffuse a knowledge of the views and proceedings of the Liberation Society in places which have not been included in its previous operations. That the conference expresses the earnest hope that those efforts will be persisted in until the friends of Voluntarism throughout the West Riding have been thoroughly organised for, and are actively engaged in, carrying on the work of the society. For this purpose the conference requests the West Riding Committee to continue in existence, and to report its proceedings to future conferences.

He said that the report just read was very good as far as it went, but they seemed to have confined the operations of the society too much to one gentleman, and this did not seem to him to meet the necessities of the case. It was exceedingly important that still greater efforts should be put forth to make the operations of the society more extensively known. He trusted that the meetings which had been held had been of great service. With regard to the subscriptions, he took occasion to say last year that as the people in Lancashire, owing to the distress that prevailed there, were unable to assist, as otherwise they would have done, they ought to have a decided increase this year, and he was very glad to find there had been an increase. (Cheers.)

Mr. C. H. JONES, of Huddersfield, seconded the motion, remarking that he hoped the society in the

future would continue prosperous, and that they would be able to go on enlightening the public on these great questions, for if the public were only enlightened they would be sure to come to right conclusions. (Applause.)

Mr. WHITEHEAD, of Bradford, thought that the thanks of the meeting were due to the Liberation Society for what they had done during the past year. He suggested that more attention should be paid to giving lectures in the smaller towns and country villages.

The Rev. G. W. CONDER, of Leeds, said they did not seem to have put forth all the power they might have done. There was a great deal more power among them in that room to work for the objects of that society more than they had yet done. There were gentlemen as competent as they were willing, and as willing as they were competent. There was a great deal of fallow ground to be broken up, and though they could not expect, perhaps, for some time, to persuade their friends connected with the Church of England of the truth of their principles, yet there were many members of their own congregations who had been prejudiced against the society, and they might enlighten them as to its principles and objects. They should try to organise a band of gentlemen who would undertake, from October to March in next year, to visit the whole of the towns and villages in the West Riding. This would be the best thing that could be done, and he was very sorry that it had not been done last year. (Cheers.)

After a remark from the CHAIRMAN, who said that what they wanted was to have those who were only nominally with them, and then their work would be nearly over, the resolution was agreed to.

Mr. JOHN COOK, of Bradford, then moved:—

That, it being essential that the Liberation Society should be in a position to avail itself of the many opportunities for the successful advocacy of its principles which now present themselves, the conference attaches great importance to the proposal to double the amount annually received by the society from this district; and trusts that in the present year greater progress will be made towards the attainment of that object than has been made since the holding of the last conference.

He rejoiced in the success which had attended the society, and he believed it had still greater success before it. He did not know another society that had done so much work with such a small amount of money, and he should like to see the same spirit amongst them which characterised the old Corn-law leaguers, as they had a similar work to do—which was that of thoroughly educating public opinion. He should like to see the great masses of the working men indoctrinated with the fact that a State-Church was at variance with the political progress of the country.

Mr. LEE, of Wakefield, seconded the motion, remarking that many Dissenters were unaware that such a society existed, and were ignorant of its principles. There were large numbers in connection with their own congregations who required to be thoroughly informed on these questions, and they must enlist their hearts and sympathies if they intended to open their purses. They would require a very large amount of contributions, and judging from the great deal that had been done during the past year he thought they would have no difficulty in raising funds, if they would only beget in their friends an interest on behalf of the society. (Hear.)

The CHAIRMAN thought they were responsible for the indifference that prevailed amongst their congregations on this subject. If an appeal were made—say for 25,000*l.* or 50,000*l.*—he was sure that in Bradford they would raise their full share, and 25 per cent. would be contributed in a fortnight. The resolution was then carried.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS was then called upon to read a paper on Parliamentary and electoral action, which he said had been read by Mr. Miall at several conferences, and also a memorandum of the executive committee, explanatory of their views in respect to the proposed electoral policy. He said that he was glad to add, after an examination of the votes given by the Liberal representatives of that district, that the proposed policy had already, to a considerable extent, been acted upon; and for that very reason it was desirable that that conference should urge others to adopt a similar course.

Mr. HANDEL COSHAM, of Bristol, then moved:—

That, looking to the recent rejection by the legislature of all measures which have in any degree recognised the principle of religious equality, and to the fact that the advocates of that principle have never yet fully exerted, on its behalf, that electoral influence which they unquestionably possess, this conference regards with great satisfaction the determination of the Executive Committee of the Liberation Society to urge on their supporters the duty of immediate preparation for the next general election, and it is desirous that the electoral policy which has been agreed upon should be adopted in the constituencies of the West Riding, and, generally, throughout the kingdom.

He said that the adoption of this resolution would probably effect the least alteration in Lancashire and Yorkshire of any other part in the kingdom, for the most satisfactory reason, that the majority of the constituencies were Liberal, and had hitherto returned Liberal members to the House of Commons. The policy recommended by the resolution had hitherto been more or less acted upon in this district, and the executive committee were most anxious that electors generally should follow the good example that had been already set them. (Hear.) He was deeply conscious that in asking their assent to the principle embodied in the resolution, he was asking their assent to a principle which was rather unpopular at the present time. He presumed that amongst themselves there could not be much difference of opinion as to the facts stated in the resolution, for it was well known that all the measures in which they were interested had been ignominiously rejected by the House of Commons. He was struck by the manner in which those questions had been rejected, for

they had not been rejected upon their merits at all. It must be admitted that they had failed to get the support of the great Liberal party in that House, and that they had also failed fully to exert the influence they possessed in the country. He was a party man, and he did not desire to ignore party ties, but hitherto they had been accustomed to regard ties more than principles, and now he would ask them to regard principles rather than party ties. He loved his party, but he loved his principles more than his party. If adhesion to those principles involved severance from that party, then he was prepared for that issue, and he believed such severance would ultimately tend to the success of the object they had in view. However blind the great Liberal party might have been in having refused to grant them any concession hitherto, he hoped that in future they would not be so blind as to reject the opinions and principles of men who formed so great a body as did the Liberation Society. The conviction that was continually forcing itself upon his mind was, that though the end they had in view was a religious one, it must be gained by political means, and if they were victorious there was no institution that would be more benefited than the Church itself. It was because he religiously believed that the usefulness of the Church was hindered by its connection with the State, that he asked them to adopt this policy. After showing that they were not represented in the House of Commons in proportion to their wealth, influence, and numbers, he said that as Dissenters they had not been over-exacting to have their due proportion of representation. This question was argued as much for the Churchman as for the Dissenter, and he asked as much for the Churchman as for the Dissenter. If it were a question as to which Church should be endowed, he would say let the Church of England be endowed, because the members of that Church had been so much used to power that they would be able to use it better than they would. If the Liberal party went down it would be because they had not adopted the policy contained in that resolution, and if they were, as had been asserted, bankrupt in principles, that policy would give them a little stock in trade. (Cheers.)

Mr. WHITEHEAD, of Bradford, seconded the resolution, remarking that the course of action recommended was perfectly fair and reasonable. They did not say because they happened to be one-half of the Liberal party in any constituency they would insist upon both candidates being Dissenters; they only wanted to have that representation to which their numbers fairly entitled them. They asked for no more and they would not take any less. They had waited for the settlement of the question of free trade, and now they had a clear course, the executive committee having fixed upon a time when they could go to Parliament without any other great question having to be pushed aside.

The Rev. Dr. FRASER, of Bradford, remarked that this had been represented as a religious question, but he thought it was also very desirable to state that this was a political question, because they came there as persons placed under a political disadvantage on account of their religion. (Hear.) They came there as persons who had a right to protest. He was a party man because of principle, and he had followed his party and stuck to it, because its principles were his.

The Rev. J. H. RYLAND said he could not see anything in the resolution which had been suggested by the executive committee which all Dissenters could not endorse most fully.

The Rev. R. BRUCE, of Huddersfield, moved as an amendment that that part of the resolution after the words, "next general election," should be left out, and the following substituted: "and resolves to adopt all fair and reasonable means to secure in the constituencies of the West Riding members of Parliament who shall be prepared heartily to vote for those measures which tend in the direction of full religious equality and freedom." He said he was afraid that if the policy recommended went before the country it would bear upon it this aspect—that they were separating themselves from the great Liberal party and becoming a clique in the state. He was also afraid they had not given the Liberal party sufficient credit for the good it had done, for if they would look at all the votes upon the questions in which they were interested they would find that the Liberal party, almost to a man, had stood by them—(Hear)—while the Conservative party, almost to a man, had been against them. He recommended that, instead of proposing any general policy to be adopted throughout the country, that conference should deal only with the West Riding, and simply adopt such measures as might be useful to their party, leaving other districts at liberty to do what they thought proper.

Mr. H. J. PHILBRICK seconded the amendment, saying that on the occasion of a general election he should like to be left to the exercise of his own views and feelings as the necessities of the case might suggest.

Mr. WADE, of Leeds, supported the amendment, and stated that the general impression of the policy recommended would be that all electors should withhold their votes from those candidates who did not entertain all their views. It was a matter of regret that the resolution had ever been brought before them, as it would have a serious influence upon their future elections. The society had not hitherto done due justice to those constituencies that had returned members who had been opposed to the connection between the Church and State.

The Rev. G. W. CONDER, of Leeds, said that both the paper that had been read and the memorandum of the committee seemed to him identical, and it was understood by the committee that this

policy, whilst being recommended in general for the whole country, should nevertheless be subjected to such practical modifications as the circumstances of the case necessitated. They were not asking favours of the Liberal party, but they were demanding rights. (Cheers.) He thought that for many concessions they had received they ought to thank themselves, for the Liberal party had only given them things in the past because they had been determined to have them. The best thing that could happen to the Liberal party, both for political and religious freedom, was to have a periodical retirement into the back settlements, and they would soon be back again much better men than they went.

The Rev. W. ROBERTS expressed his fear that there would in many places be found an unwillingness to adopt the policy recommended.

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS said that if action was postponed till quietude reigned on the continent, he feared they would have to wait for years. (Hear.) Grateful as they might be to the Liberals for past services, a political party could not live upon gratitude—unless it were of the kind described by the Irishman who said it consisted in an expectation of favours to come. (Laughter.) Let it be remembered that they had been working for the abolition of Church-rates for thirty years, and the Liberal party had not obtained it for them yet. (Hear, hear.) Yet it could, if it had pleased, have carried the Abolition Bill last session, as it had done in previous sessions. The fact was, that certain members who voted for it in one session would be absent the next, so that the bill was lost by Liberal absenteeism, and not by Tory votes. He also called attention to the fact, that last session Lord Palmerston paired with a member who was in Italy at the time, and that, whereas formerly there were only two members of the Government who voted against the bill, there were now four. One of them was Sir Roundell Palmer, and he had refused to insert in the Church Building Acts Consolidation Bill a clause to give effect to a Parliamentary pledge that Church-rates should not be levied for district churches. The suggestion that had been made, that they should have no policy at all in respect to the next election, would, if adopted, be most perilous. (Hear.) The Government was preparing for a dissolution. The Opposition was preparing. Why should the friends of religious equality always be waiting for the chapter of accidents, instead of deciding what it would do, and preparing to do it. (Cheers.) He urged the conference not to limit its expression of approval, as proposed by the amendment, but to let the friends of religious equality in the West Riding exert on the whole country that influence which they undoubtedly possessed. (Cheers.)

The Rev. BRYAN DALE decidedly supported the resolution. He thought that on the occasion of a general election their own people had not supported, as they ought to have done, the great principles of the society, and it was high time for them to determine upon some definite policy to be pursued.

The Rev. R. L. CARPENTER would not be in favour of rejecting a Liberal candidate merely because he did not think him up to his mark on all their questions. He thought that with the limitations proposed, the plan recommended might be adopted.

The Rev. J. S. EASTMEAD, of Wakefield, also supported the resolution; and, after some remarks from the Rev. R. HARLEY, of Brighouse, the Rev. R. BRUCE, Mr. COSHAM, and Mr. WILLIAMS, the resolution was carried; the amendment being supported by four or five votes.

The Rev. R. BRUCE then proposed a resolution relative to the recent deputation to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland:—

That the conference has learned with surprise that the Presbyterian ministers of Ireland have applied for an additional annual grant of public money for the increase of their stipends. That, while objecting on general grounds to the granting of State subsidies to any religious body, it specially objects to any increase of the *Regium Donum*, because of the pernicious influence it has exerted upon the Presbyterian body in Ireland, who, while forming the wealthiest portion of the community, afford to their ministers a wretchedly inadequate amount of support, and contribute less liberally towards religious objects than any other denomination.

As the conference had sat for some time, Mr. BRUCE moved the resolution with brevity, and Mr. WADE having seconded it, it was carried.

The Rev. W. ROBERTS moved, and the Rev. R. HARLEY seconded, and, after a few remarks, it was agreed—

That, as the refusal of Parliament to abolish Church-rates has rendered necessary the continuation of parochial agitation, this conference earnestly recommends all ratepayers who are opposed to the exaction to labour with fresh energy for its extinction in their own parishes. That the conference makes this recommendation with greater confidence because of the great progress which has already been made in the direction of abolition by means of such local agitation; while at the same time it is of opinion that the friends of Voluntaryism should regard vestry contests, to a greater extent than they have yet done, as valuable opportunities of furthering the ultimate aim of the society—the abandonment of all compulsory means for the maintenance of religion.

It was proposed by the Rev. D. JONES, of Booth, seconded, and resolved—

That the conference desires to return its thanks to the committee and officers of the West Riding Committee during the past year; as also to the chairman and secretaries of the conference, and to the deputation; and also expresses its indebtedness to the local committee and other friends of the society in Halifax, whose activity and hospitality have so greatly facilitated the arrangements for the present meeting.

The vote having been acknowledged by the chairman and the Rev. T. Michael, the proceedings closed, and the members of the Conference adjourned to the White Swan Hotel, where dinner had been provided by the local committee.

THE PUBLIC MEETING.

In the evening a public meeting was held at the Mechanics' Hall. The attendance was most

numerous, the spacious hall being quite filled, and the proceedings throughout were of the most unanimous and enthusiastic character. The ministers and laymen who had been present at the conference, together with several local friends of the Liberation Society, occupied seats on the platform, and Mr. John Crossley presided. The Rev. T. MICHAEL briefly offered prayer.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said,

The Liberation Society exists for one great purpose, the maintenance and enforcement of this principle, viz., that religion is, and ought to be, independent alike of the patronage and the control of the civil magistrate. (Hear, hear.) Religion, he said, is essentially a personal concern, and moves in a sphere in which the civil magistrate has no standing ground whatever. (Hear, hear.) The more closely we draw near to God in our spiritual affairs, the more entirely shall we "cease from man" in all such matters. Such is the great conviction which animates us in the agitation to which we, as a society, are committed. (Hear, hear.) Now, such being our opinions, it cannot seem strange to any that we should regard with disfavour the existing relations between the Episcopal Church of this country and the State. (Hear, hear.) As now existing we consider it to be injurious alike to the interests of the Church and the State, and being of this opinion, we esteem it our duty to use our utmost endeavour to rectify what we conscientiously believe to be a radical evil. (Hear, hear.) No man, for example, can look at the influence of the Church upon the State, in the alliance that exists between them, without feeling that the political interests of the country are injuriously affected by the existence of an established religion. (Hear, hear.) Subscription to a definite and formal creed seems to me a necessary part of an establishment; yet, on the other hand, it appears to me to be a most dangerous requirement in a church, and one very likely to do violence to conscience. (Hear, hear.) We claim for ourselves the right, which we also concede to others, of avowing and advocating our conscientious convictions. Nor ought it to be said of us by any one, because we entertain these views, that we are animated by a hostile feeling to the Church itself, which is allied to the State. I am sure I can say for myself that I have no such hostility. (Hear, hear.) It was said of me some time ago, by a right rev. prelate of the Church of England, that he was sure I would not cast a stone at the foundations of the Church; and that he was also confident that I regarded the Established Church of this country as an integral part of the constitution of the country. Now that is quite true. I am sure I have no such feeling of malice towards anything that belongs to the Established Church, as is suggested by the idea of "throwing stones" at it. (Hear, hear.) And as for the Established Church being a part of the constitution of the country—why, of course it is so, and I cannot do otherwise than so regard it. ("Hear, hear," and applause.) But I say, honestly and frankly, that I desire to see the time when the existing arrangement of Church and State will cease to be an integral part of the constitution of the country. (Hear, hear.) I believe it would be for the good both of Church and of State that they should cease to be united in a formal compact. I believe that the State would be more free to carry out a wise and salutary policy, and the Church more free to carry out its high and holy mission. (Hear, hear.) That principle I trust I shall ever advocate in a temperate and Christian spirit, and I hope that those who may differ from my views in these respects, will give me credit for conscientious feeling in the matter, as I give them credit also for the same. I know it is sometimes said to us Dissenters—"Now if you entertain these views, why are you not content to hold them, and not upon them for yourselves, instead of agitating them in public—why should you try and enforce your views on others?" (Laughter.) I answer this question in a single word. We advocate them publicly because we believe them to be true; and because we believe their adoption would be beneficial to the country at large, and to the Church at large. I hope I have not shown much sectarian feeling in my public life. (Hear, hear.) I cannot but see that that Church holds a very important position in this country, and is likely to do so, and that it has a great and solemn mission to the world, in common with all other sections of the Church of Christ,—and it is, among other reasons, because I believe its welfare would be promoted, and its usefulness increased by such a step, that I advocate the liberation of religion from State patronage and control. (Applause.)

The Rev. W. ROBERTS moved the first resolution, which affirmed the anti-State-Church principle. It was, he said, his first appearance on the society's platform; but, while he had no taste for controversy, he could not have refused to come to that meeting except he denied the principles upon which that society was constituted, and holding those principles to be true, he found it exceedingly difficult to reconcile the idea of seeming to cast a doubt upon them, with his professions as a Dissenter. After ably enlarging on the principle affirmed in the resolution, he said, in answer to the statement that Dissenters had abuses—

There was this great distinction—that when an abuse crept into the Establishment the State stereotyped it, but when the Dissenters had an abuse they had the power of instantly removing it. As to why they did not let the Church alone, he said that as Christian men they cared for the advancement of the Gospel of Christ, and they were bound, for religion's sake, to protest against that which hindered the Church from fulfilling her high mission. He referred to the Bicentenary year, and said that had it not been for that celebration the Church of England would have lost a great deal of that healthy debate which was now going on within its own pale, and which had within it the germs of a higher life. As Dissenters they could not agitate this question in any angry spirit. They were not directing their efforts against any merely new abuses, for the Church of England had come down to them from generation to generation as a tradition of the country, and they ought to look upon them as old abuses which they wished to resist. The charge against them of being political Dissenters was the most absurd that could be uttered. He longed for the time when the barrier would be broken down, when Churchmen and Dissenters would be brethren in one crusade against the evils of the world.

(Hear, hear.) The influence of the Establishment made clergymen supercilious to Dissenters. (Hear, hear.) He would co-operate with Churchmen with as much pleasure as he would co-operate with Dissenters, in a common ministry of the common Master, but he refused to co-operate except upon equal terms. (Applause.)

Mr. CARVELL WILLIAMS, in seconding the motion, pointed out in detail the violations of the principle of religious equality which were involved in existing arrangements, and mentioned several illustrative facts. He concluded by quoting the Queen's proclamation to the natives of India, as involving all that they desired, and claimed that English Nonconformists should be at least as fairly treated as the Hindoo subjects of her Majesty.

The Rev. BRYAN DALE proposed a motion referring to events in the Establishment, and delivered an animated speech. He said:—

It behoved all the members of the Liberation Society, especially in assemblies of that kind, to give a full and free expression of the convictions they entertained. If he read aright the signs of the times, he thought that one of the greatest evils to be found in the House of Commons and out of it, in the religious world as well as the secular, was the suppression of truth, and if ever there was a time when they ought to speak out the truth that was in them, that time was the present. They ought to promote the objects of this society because of the duty they owed to themselves. When Archdeacon Sandford told the University of Oxford that the morality, loyalty, and religion of the land were being imperilled by Dissent, were they to stand by without speaking. Let them rather, when a favourable opportunity presented itself, tell the people what they meant, whether men would hear or whether they would forbear. There was much in which they as ministers were deficient, and many of their young people had need to be better instructed in the principles of Nonconformity. They all knew young men, belonging to their respective denominations, who had, because of some social advantage, as had been sometimes said, "lost their religion and gone to church." (Laughter.) They owed to their brethren in the Church to support this resolution, many of whom were labouring hard to produce a change in that Church; and they also owed it to their country. They owed this duty to the cause of religion in all parts of the world. It was a duty of all Dissenters to speak out on these matters, and he believed that, if this were done, help would be given to a large party in the Church who were anxious to free her from State control, and that the cause of religion would be greatly promoted.

Mr. HANDEL COSSHAM seconded the resolution. In the course of a speech which, by its earnestness and humour, made a great impression, he said he had studied with considerable care the votes of the bishops in the House of Lords during the last 200 years, and he found that as a rule they were against freedom, against right, against the extension of everything which had made this country great; and if only their will had been embodied, the laws of this country, instead of being as they were, and the country, instead of being as it was, would have been degraded in the eyes of the world and dishonoured in their own. (Applause.) And yet it was remarkable how alert the bishops were to everything that pertained to what they deemed to be the interests of the Church. It was said, but he did not know that it was true, that the whole of the prelates on the ecclesiastical bench in the House of Lords were once asleep at the time a noble duke was speaking. In the midst of his speech the noble duke called out, in a loud tone of voice, "Down with the Church," and the whole of the bishops were awake in an instant. (Loud laughter.)

The Rev. G. W. CONDER commenced a lengthened and admirable speech by contrasting the change which had taken place in the tone of public feeling in relation to the society.

Ten years ago, or half of that period, he supposed they could not have held such a meeting as that in Halifax, where Dissent was so strong; and fifteen years ago to be an advocate of that society was deemed to be doing a very rash thing. Those who used to denounce them strongly were now among their warmest friends. Years ago the Church of England looked down on them not—with affected contempt, because that would show they were afraid—but with the most unaffected and gentle contempt, as if they really thought no mischief would result from their proceedings. Parliament took no notice of them, and if by some chance a small paragraph got into the *Times*, the people would have passed it by as a matter of no moment. What was the case now? Their old friends no longer despised them, but were to be found with them, subscribing to their funds, and taking part in their proceedings. Their Church friends might affect to despise them, but let their actions speak. Why were there so many Church Defence Associations formed in their large towns, and why had they agents going about lecturing in the wake of the agent of the Liberation Society? It was because they found that they could not afford to despise the Liberation Society, and that they must make a show of meeting them in the open field. The quality of the gentlemen in the House of Commons had been considerably affected and somewhat improved by the action of the Liberation Society. They had put strings of questions to candidates upon the political and spiritual character of the Church, and this had tended very much to liberalise them for the time being, until the returning officer had told them they were returned as the member for this borough or the other. The press ignored them no longer, and the second estate of the realm, even the bench of bishops, had been known to pronounce the name of the Liberation Society. (Applause.) What had been done ought to give them the most confident expectations for what might be done in the future.

The resolution was carried with acclamation, and the Rev. J. C. GRAY then moved the appointment of the committee of the Halifax Auxiliary to the society.

The Rev. R. L. CARPENTER seconded the motion, and it was carried.

On the motion of Mr. A. ILLINGWORTH, seconded

by the Rev. C. CLARKE, the thanks of the meeting were presented to the chairman for presiding.

We are chiefly indebted to the *Halifax Courier* for our report of proceedings, which appears at great length in that journal.

The *Manchester Weekly Times*, referring to its report of the above meeting, says:—

The Dissenters all over the country are awaking to a more earnest political life. The lethargy of the last few years has been rather injurious to them as a body than otherwise, and now they are going to wage a war of "principle." We applaud their determination, and we shall be glad to see their policy crowned with success. After making every reasonable allowance, there cannot be the slightest question that the Dissenters have been badly treated by the Whigs; and it is an indication of renewed life that they have at last resolved to "strike." Those simple souls who suppose that every species of liberty flourishes unchecked on British soil, will be at a loss to understand the new movement. Cannot people worship God as they please, and where they please; and, pray, what more is wanted? This is a very comfortable creed, admirably adapted for well-to-do persons whose sole aspiration is to "rest, and be thankful"; but, unfortunately, it is not so well suited to thousands of her Majesty's loyal subjects who have a perfect right to have their wishes respected in this matter. Religious inequalities are not yet altogether things of the past, and until every vestige of them has been swept away, free men in a free country will never cease warring against them. What is uppermost with Dissenters just now may be gathered from the report of the West Riding Conference of the Liberation Society, at Halifax. The numerical importance of Dissenters in the various constituencies is to be made the ground of certain demands respecting the representation of each particular place, and every supercilious Whig candidate who will not pledge himself to a certain extension of religious equality, need not look to the Dissenters for support. The agitation against Church-rates in particular parishes is to be prosecuted with renewed vigour; and generally such plans are to be adopted as will make easy-going Churchmen of the old school exceedingly nervous, if not terribly alarmed. All this is a sign of healthy life, and therefore we approve of it. The Liberal party may be robbed a little of its numbers for a time, but in the end it cannot fail to be greatly benefited by the increased earnestness which will be imparted to it.

ISLINGTON.—The Islington and Holloway Committee of the Liberation Society have arranged for a course of lectures of a biographical and historical character. The first was delivered last Thursday evening, at Myddelton Hall, by the Rev. A. M. Henderson, who chose for his subject "John Milton," and treated it with great ability, and in a way calculated both to instruct and to entertain. W. Heaton, Esq., was chairman, and there was a good audience. On Tuesday week the Rev. Edward White is to lecture on "Westminster Abbey"; and lectures by the Rev. J. Eustace Giles—on Daniel Defoe—and the Rev. Mark Wilks are to follow. We suggest that the friends of the society in other districts of the metropolis should avail themselves of the same lectures for their own localities.

LYNN.—On Thursday last a public meeting of the Liberation Society was held in Albion Hall, Lynn, where there was a good attendance. Mr. J. G. Wigg acted as chairman; and the Rev. G. Gould, of Norwich, Mr. Edward Grimwade, of Ipswich, and Mr. Kearley, of London, attended as a deputation. Mr. Kearley, in a lengthened address, described the objects of the society, and the progress already made towards their attainment, and referred to several recent works as illustrating the necessity for separating the Church and State. Mr. Grimwade adduced facts stating how much less indebted the nation is to the Establishment, in respect to both morality and religion, than is commonly supposed; referring especially to the condition of the rural districts. The Rev. G. Gould, in the course of an argumentative speech, remarked on the anomaly of the State religions being different and opposite in character in England, Scotland, and Ireland; from which it was evident that the Government never pretended to endow the truth, but merely adopted a line of policy which was judged to be compatible with its own interests in regard to the majority of the electors in each portion of the kingdom. The Bishops of Oxford, London, or Winchester, if they crossed the Tweed and preached before the Queen in Scotland, could only do so as Dissenting ministers, and the same would be the case with Dr. Caird or Dr. McLeod if they preached before her in England. And the Queen therefore was put in this frightful position, that, whatever might be her private convictions as to the Scriptural authority of prelate on the one hand, or of Presbyterianism on the other, she was bound to treat them as equally true, when the one was flatly subversive of the other. A vote of thanks to the deputation and chairman closed the proceedings.

THE CHURCH INSTITUTION.

On Wednesday a general meeting of the members of this Institution was held in the hall of King's College, Strand, for the purpose of receiving a report from the executive committee on measures before Parliament affecting the Church, and on general business.

Sir Walter Farquhar, Bart., was called to the chair, and was supported by the Earl of Dartmouth, Viscount Ingestre, M.P., Mr. Cubitt, M.P., Sir W. C. James, the Hon. Mr. Trefusis, M.P., Sir John Gibbon, Mr. C. Sumner (Chancellor of the diocese of Winchester), Mr. J. M. Clabon, Mr. A. Brady, Mr. H. Hoare, and other gentlemen.

Mr. G. HOWELS DAVIES, the secretary, read the report, which stated that, foiled in their attacks in Parliament, the opponents of the Church had avowed

their intention to carry the contest into the parishes. To meet these attacks parochial associations would be formed throughout the country, and the Archbishop of Canterbury had consented to take the chair at a meeting for this furtherance of the object which it was proposed to hold on the 26th of April. The report dwelt upon Church-rates, the Nonconformists' Burial Bill, the Affirmations Bill, the Endowed Schools Bill, the Qualification for Offices Bill, the Revised Code, the increase of the Episcopate, and other matters.

The CHAIRMAN said they ought not to allow themselves to suppose that, because there was at present a calm, the conflicts in which they had been engaged were at an end, for it was quite clear that the Nonconformists would not relax their efforts. Nor must it be forgotten that the great funds which the Dissenters had at command enabled them to take action in a way which might foment discord in every parish in the kingdom where there was any chance of success. Now the serious question for Churchmen was, to consider whether they were inclined to relax in their endeavours to resist threatened encroachments. (Hear, hear.) He was persuaded that such was not the feeling of Churchmen, and he was equally sure that it was not the intention of the Church Institution to leave individual parishes on which attacks were made, to struggle or to succumb. They ought not to let history remain without its lessons, and if they believed the statements made by the Nonconformists who were examined before the Committee of the House of Lords, namely, that the destruction of Church-rates was only the first of a series of measures which they meant to bring forward for the purpose of securing freedom of religion, and which must be destructive to the Church, they must remember that a similar scene was enacted in years gone by, and that the monarchy did not long survive. (Hear, hear.) For himself he was in favour of energetic action, and he trusted that Churchmen would not put off their armour until the battle was won, and they could hand down to their children the inestimable blessings they had inherited from their fathers. (Cheers.)

Mr. H. HOARE, in moving the adoption of the report, said he was heartily thankful for the encouraging state of affairs connected with the Church. Mr. J. M. CLABON seconded the motion.

After a lengthened discussion the report was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. PRIDEAUX gave notice that at the next meeting he should move that it is the duty of the Institution to put forth a programme as to the duty of Churchmen with regard to the laws for the making and recovery of Church-rates; and that the members ought not to confine themselves to the negative policy of throwing out of Parliament the bills introduced by Nonconformists.

Votes of Thanks closed the proceedings.

REGISTRARS' MARRIAGES AND REMARRIAGE AT CHURCH.

One of the curates of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, has had the enclosed correspondence with the Registrar-General's Office respecting the solemnisation of marriage in the church of persons already married at a registrar's office:—

42, Chapel-street, Belgrave-square, S.W.,
Dec. 16, 1863.

Sir,—I shall feel obliged if you will give me the information required on the following points:—1. The form for publishing banns of marriage in church where persons have been married by a registrar in the country and wish to be married in church, or the reference where such form can be found. 2. Or should the marriage take place without the banns being published, upon the certificate of the banns of the registrar being supplied? 3. In case such marriage took place in church, what is the form of entry in the parish register-book? 4. Have the parties to sign some form stating that they have been married by a registrar?

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS BROTHERS,

Curate of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge.

The Registrar-General.

General Register Office, Dec. 18, 1863.

Rev. Sir,—I am directed by the Registrar-General to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, and to inform you that clause 12 of the Act 19 and 20 Vic. cap. 119, contains provisions to the following effect:—

If parties who have been married in a registrar-office desire to add the religious ceremony ordered or used by the church or persuasion to which they belong, to the marriage so contracted, they may present themselves for that purpose to the clergyman or minister of the church or persuasion of which they are members, and such clergyman or minister may, if he think fit, upon the production of their certificate of marriage before the Superintendent-Registrar, and upon the payment of the customary fees (if any), read or celebrate the marriage service, but it is expressly enjoined that such reading or celebration shall not be entered as a marriage in the parish register.

A marriage in a registrar-office is a perfectly legal and valid marriage; and no provision beyond that I have just quoted has been made by the legislature for a subsequent remarriage in a church or chapel.

I am, rev. Sir, your obedient servant,

E. EDWARDS, Chief Clerk.

The Rev. Francis Brothers.

42, Chapel-street, Belgrave-square, S.W.,
Dec. 18, 1863.

Sir,—I beg to thank you for the very prompt and explicit answer to the questions which I asked on the 16th inst. I shall feel further obliged to you if you will kindly tell me whether, after the marriage in the church has been solemnised between two persons previously married by a registrar, there would be any objection to the fact of such marriage in the church being endorsed on the certificate of the registrar produced by the persons so married.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRANCIS BROTHERS,

Curate of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge.

The Registrar-General.

General Register Office, Dec. 21, 1863.

Rev. Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 18th inst. (received this day), I am directed by the Registrar-General to inform you that in his opinion no record whatever should be made of the reading or celebration of the marriage ceremony in a church after the marriage has been legally solemnised in a registrar-office.

I am, rev. Sir, your obedient servant,

E. EDWARDS, Chief Clerk.

The Rev. Francis Brothers.

MORE ROUPING SCENES IN EDINBURGH.

The *Caledonian Mercury* of Thursday has the following:—

The work of spoliation goes on bravely for the clergy. Yesterday another victim was made, and a second had been prepared and would have been dealt with had not the servants of the law found themselves in considerable danger. It appears that about twelve o'clock, making their movements from different corners of Brunswick-street and Stockbridge, as if afraid of being seen together, appeared the dirty-looking fellows who are employed to gather in the stipends of the city clergy. They proceeded at once to the house of Mr. Alexander White, 10, Baker's-place, out of which was hanging a great black flag, bearing on it in large printed letters in white the words, "Sale for Minister's Money." Mr. White having somehow learned that he was to be visited by the officials during the day. The flag, with the appearance of the skulking fellows about the door, soon attracted a crowd, who hooted and groaned the bailiffs, and took possession of the house, leaving them barely room to perform their obnoxious work. The noise increasing, some seven or eight millers from the flour-mills adjoining were speedily on the scene, and following them appeared a number of sweeps, eager, apparently, to become spectators of an expected affray. These rushed into the building, and a scene of terrific crushing, with hootings and groanings, and cries of "Shame, shame!" with occasional calls for the brokers, Jacobs and McCaffrey, ensued. In the crush one of the bailiff's concurrences, who was severely pressed, drew his fist and struck one of the millers, who apparently not unwilling to receive "an occasion," delivered a dexter blow at the fellow's chest, which sent him sprawling upon the floor crying for mercy. The insolent limb of the law, who evidently deemed the one "thud" quite enough, would have been roughly handled had not a number of the friends of Mr. White interfered for his protection. Even while they were doing this, and while the crush was so great as to make their labour of mercy by no means easy, another of the officers, it is said, drew a large knife out of his pocket, and threatened to use it if he were attacked. The officers felt themselves in a fix. Every attempt at a sale, even when Mr. White was bidding to the amount of his police-tax proper for his pointed goods, was met by hootings and groanings, and cries against the Lord Advocate and city clergy. The feeling of the crowd, however, seemed to be strongest against the brokers who had bought at the sale at Mr. Campbell's, in Howe-street, and Mr. Armstrong's, in Nelson-street. Frequent calls were made for them, and threats uttered against them, till it was found that if they had made their appearance they were not in the house; in fact, it was discovered that there was not a person in the premises to bid for any article put up. When Mr. White had finished bidding to the amount of his police-tax, minus the ministers' money, a gross illegality was committed by the officers in knocking down an article value for several pounds, in the name of Mr. Morton, of Leith. It seems strange that Leith alone should furnish the brokers and buyers. There was no bid, there was no person of that name present to bid, and the result was a manifestation of feeling on the subject which led to the precipitate ejection of the officers, and their ridiculous flight through the neighbouring streets, followed by a hissing and groaning crowd.

On Friday the emissaries of the law, enforced by a posse of police, with a sergeant of the order, appeared unexpectedly at the shop of Mr. Wetherston, fisher, Howe-street, an elder of the Rev. Dr. Thompson's church, and proceeded to auction his shop-furniture and goods. The police took their station at the door, and the agents of the clergy were ranged at the back of the shop. Mr. Wetherston had no notice of the intention to sell; on finding the officers at his shop, however, he immediately put out a large placard bearing the words, "Sale for Ministers' Money," and the result was the speedy collection of a very considerable crowd, who rushed to the shop, hooted and groaned the officers, and otherwise manifested their indignation at the foul wrong attempted to be done in the sacred name of religion. There was no bidder save a man from Leith, brought expressly for the purpose. Not a broker of the city would go near it; not a person in the neighbourhood would have taken an article had it been presented to them. The sale of goods in the shop to the amount of 10*l.* or 11*l.* did not occupy much time, though it was not effected without considerable excitement, with execrations of Adam Black and the clergy as the cause of the scandal. The Leith man, and his apparently congenial companions, the bailiffs, were hooted from the place. About two o'clock, when the police actually returned with the Leith purchaser and a railway cart to take away the bench, which the Leith fellow alleged he had bought, there could not, it is said, have been fewer than from 1,500 to 2,000 persons on the ground. They were met by vociferous hootings, groanings, cries of "Shame, shame," "Robbery, robbery." In the course of another half-hour—the officers and their Leith friend all this time shivering in Mr. Wetherston's shop—nearly 1,000 more, it is alleged, had been added to the number; cabs and other vehicles were stopped, and one series of groans after another proved the strong feeling of the multitude. Mr. Wetherston twice or thrice made his appearance, and intimated to those nearest the door the nature of the robbery attempted to be perpetrated on him; at the same time urging his friends to allow the officers to take away their booty, as he would find his remedy in another way. Finally, the huge bench was got upon the cart,

the Leith fellow, who had bailed a 'bus which refused to take him, was taken care of by the police, the officers skulked out of Mr. Wetherston's, each between two policemen, and in this dignified style the whole party left the place, followed by a hooting and execrating crowd.

CLERICAL SUBSCRIPTION.—We have very good reason to believe that a Royal Commission will soon be appointed to consider a revision of the terms of clerical subscription.

REPORTED SUSPENSION OF A CLERGYMAN.—It is understood that the Rev. Rowland Henniker, incumbent of Cauldon and Waterfall, whose vagaries will be fresh in the recollection of our readers, has been suspended by the Bishop of Lichfield for two years.—*Staffordshire Sentinel*.

THE CHURCH-RATE QUESTION.—Several notices of motion on the Church-rate question appear in the order-book of the House of Commons for the forthcoming session. Lord Alfred Churchill has a bill "to amend the law relative to the recovery of Church-rates," that is, to make the payment voluntary, and Mr. Newdegate has a bill on the commutation of Church-rates.

THE REV. HENRY WARD BEECHER ROUPED FOR BENEFIT OF CLERGY.—It may be interesting to notice that at the recent sale a fine bust of the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, the property of Councillor Callender of this city, was sold a bargain, to replenish the exchequer of our Edinburgh ministers. Mr. Campbell, who is an artist, and had got the bust to photograph, repeatedly warned the sheriff's officers that it was not his property; nevertheless, they persisted in selling it. It will no doubt be gratifying to Mr. Beecher to hear that the Edinburgh clergy have need of him, and, legally or illegally, must have him.—*Caledonian Mercury*.

ESSAYS AND REVIEWS.—It is stated that the judgment of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the cases of Mr. Wilson and Dr. Rowland Williams will be delivered on Monday next, Feb. 8. The *Record* has a somewhat different estimate on the subject from what it had before. We quote it for what it may be worth:—

We have already stated our fears as to the judgment likely to be pronounced, although it is understood that Lord Kingsdown, while agreeing substantially with the Lord Chancellor and Lord Cranworth, was desirous of modifying the terms in which their judgment was expressed. It is now understood that there is a division, as might have been expected under such circumstances, between the lay lords and the three spiritual lords, the latter including the two archbishops and the Bishop of London. Earl Granville might claim a casting vote, but as he was not present during the whole of the proceedings, it is not likely that his lordship would incur such a responsibility. If, then, the Bishop of London concurs with the two archbishops, there will be an equality of votes, and Dr. Lushington's judgment will remain undisturbed, which only imposed on each of the reverend defendants suspension for twelve months.

IRISH CHURCH MISSIONS SOCIETY.—The Rev. G. Webster, Chancellor of the Diocese of Cork, has charged this institution with "bribing its supposed converts," and with being nothing better than a "pious fraud." He alleges that he is in possession of proof that the agents of the missions "pay Protestants to pretend they are Roman Catholics at controversial meetings"; that at a school where the society had reported there were eighty Roman Catholics in attendance "not a single Roman Catholic ever entered the place"; and that in one locality where an agent reported he had made fourteen converts from Romanism, he (Mr. Webster) found that the people had been brought there by the agent from distant places, and maintained by him in the school-house until the purpose was served. The reverend gentleman goes on to make other and scarcely less damaging assertions against the society and its agents; deprecates the fact that Englishmen, who are the largest subscribers, have been deceived; and states distinctly that "the Irish Church Missions Society has done irreparable mischief to the Church in Ireland."

PEW SALE IN NEW YORK.—At the commencement of the new year the usual meeting was held in the Rev. Henry Ward Beecher's church to dispose of the sittings for the year. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity. Precisely at seven o'clock Mr. Beecher appeared on the platform, and in a few words stated the object of the gathering and the terms of sale. He said each pew had a fixed valuation, and that the choice of all in the house would be offered without reservation for previous occupants to the highest bidder. Mr. Pillsbury then commenced the sale, and continued it up to half-past eleven o'clock without intermission. The proceeds of the sale far exceeded that of any previous year. The sales amount to over 32,000 dols., while last year the proceeds were only about 23,000 dols. There were very many persons present who did not obtain seats, owing to the high premium at which they were sold. Every pew, all the aisle chairs, and even the temporary seats which have recently been erected in the rear portion of the church, were disposed of at a remarkably high price. The highest premium paid was 200 dols., the next highest 180 dols., at which price several were sold.—*New York Times*.

THE LATE REV. JOHN BRAMALL.—In our issue of last week we announced the death of the Rev. John Bramall, one of the secretaries of the London Chapel-building Society and of Cheshunt College. It is about thirteen years since Mr. Bramall retired from the ministry and came to reside in London. He was then pastor of the church in Swanland, near Hull, Yorkshire, and was compelled to resign his charge by alarming attacks of hæmorrhage, which

apparently brought him near to death, and to the recurrence of which he has ever since been subject. When he came to London, he became a member, and soon after a deacon, of the church at Union Chapel, under the pastoral care of his friend Mr. Allon, by whom he was greatly esteemed. He was an excellent man of business—calm, clear-headed, and devoted—and was thus well fitted for the important offices which he held. He had a great deal of general knowledge, and a great deal of sagacity, and both the Chapel-building Society and Cheshunt College owe very much to his judicious management. He was interred on Saturday last in the cemetery at Finchley. The service was conducted by Mr. Allon, and, in addition to the members of his family, he was followed to the grave by Henry Spicer, Esq., Jonathan Duthoit, Esq., and James Haycroft, Esq., three of the deacons of Union Chapel, as well as by four of the students of Cheshunt, sent by their brethren as an expression of the esteem and affection in which they held Mr. Bramall.—*Patriot*.

THE FRENCH CHURCH IN THE CITY OF LONDON.—**IMPORTANT TO TRUSTEES.**—The case of the Attorney-General v. Daugars came again before the Master of the Rolls on the 26th ult. A few years ago his Honour held, in an information filed upon the subject, that the trustees of the French Protestant church in the City had improperly dismissed the minister of that church, and the court ordered him to be reinstated, and the trustees to pay the costs of the suit. The costs were taxed at about 3,000*l.*, and these the trustees paid, not out of their own pockets, but out of stock belonging to the church. The present information, therefore, was filed for the purpose of making the trustees refund that amount out of their own pockets, and for the framing of a scheme for the future management of the charity, regard being paid to the altered spiritual condition of the French Protestants now residing in London, and to their temporal necessities. The Attorney-General, Mr. Hobbouse, and Mr. Thomas H. Terrell appeared for the information; Mr. Selwyn, Mr. Baggallay, Mr. Wickens, Mr. Dickinson, and Mr. Ware appeared for the defendants. His Honour decreed that the trustees must refund the amount out of their own pockets, and pay interest at 4½ per cent. on the amount withdrawn by them from the charity fund. He directed that a scheme for the management of the charity should be considered in chambers.

THE STATE-AID QUESTION IN NEW SOUTH WALES.—The recent settlement of this controversy by the passing of an act declaring that all payments to ministers of religion from the public funds shall cease with the lives of the present recipients, has been already noticed in our columns. But by what is called the "Prohibition Bill" the Episcopal clergy are left in possession of glebe lands worth, at the lowest computation, 135,000*l.*, and likely to increase enormously in value. The Catholic Archbishop of Sydney has issued a protest to the governor against the unfair advantage which this act gives to the Church of England against all other religious bodies. The direct stipends of all clergymen are to be stopped but those of the Church of England. He says:—

As the Church of England exclusively is to profit by a permanent endowment of land, which will necessarily, by its future increase in value and multiplying relations of interest, keep their distinction and advantage prominently in men's thoughts, it is right for us to anticipate the probable results of such a future; and the history of an exclusively endowed Church is not, your Excellency knows, a happy history. We should shrink from any gratuitous allusion to such griefs, but it is notwithstanding a fact to be sometimes remembered, that in Ireland all men have seen, from that very cause, heartburnings and suspicions, sufferings of the good, and pretexts for the bad, so mischievous and bitter that we may well be eager to deprecate any of the slightest resemblance now that we are about to determine in this respect the character of our own future. Sound policy, as well as justice, invites the anxious consideration of your Excellency and of the Executive in this emergency. Total dependence on voluntary efforts on one side, and exclusive endowment on the other, will never go on long together prosperously and happily.

Religious Intelligence.

THE SUNDAY SPECIAL SERVICES.—The preachers at St. James's Hall on Sunday were: afternoon, Rev. Charles Winter; evening, Rev. John Pulsford. At the Britannia Theatre, Rev. William Roberts; Sadler's Wells, Rev. R. G. Harper, minister of Fetter-lane Chapel; Victoria, Mr. Carter; Pavilion, Rev. C. J. Evans; Surrey, Mr. Harrison Ord; Marylebone, Rev. F. Tyrell. The Rev. Canon Boyd was the preacher at St. Paul's on Sunday evening, and delivered an eloquent sermon on the example of the three Hebrew confessors (Dan. iii. 16-18).

FETTER-LANE CHAPEL.—An interesting social meeting of the church and congregation assembling in the above place of worship was held on Wednesday evening last in the lecture-room, when an address, accompanied with a purse of sovereigns, was presented to the minister, the Rev. R. G. Harper. The address, which contained a cordial expression of love to the pastor, on account of the self-denying and generous qualities of his disposition, and the able, eloquent, and convincing manner in which he enforced Divine truth from the pulpit, was ordered to be engrossed upon vellum, and given to the Rev. R. G. Harper in the most permanent form.

BEULAH-ROAD.—In the district between Upper Norwood and Croydon, and near to the Thornton-heath Station, a population has been gathering for the last two or three years precisely of the character for home missionary effort. Feeling the importance

of caring for the spiritual wants of the new neighbourhood, M. Medwin, Esq., has, at his sole cost, erected a pretty school-chapel, capable of seating 180 persons. This building he kindly offered, free of charge, for three years, to the committee of the Surrey Congregational Union, and intimated his readiness to dispose of it at the end of that time, on the most generous terms, to the congregation that might be gathered. The committee at once, and gratefully, accepted the offer, and undertook, through the district committee, to carry on a mission movement. This was commenced on Friday week, when an interesting company assembled, and the building was dedicated to the worship of God. The Rev. W. Hickman Smith, of Anerley; Rev. Wm. Anderson, of Tooting; Rev. Edward Price, of Limehouse; and Mr. Medwin, took part in the engagements of the evening. The Rev. Frederick Stephens, of Croydon, and the Rev. A. Mackennal, B.A., of Surbiton, the county secretary of the Union, were prevented from attending. On the following Sunday, the Rev. J. H. Wilson, secretary of the Home Missionary Society, preached. The beginning of this movement has been all that was desired, and more than was expected; and it is hoped that out of it will continually grow an important religious agency. Arrangements are in progress to conduct day and Sunday schools, which are much needed. This movement is respectfully commended to the notice and imitation of Christian gentlemen in similar localities, where, by the wise expenditure of a few hundred pounds, a mission chapel might be erected.

THE REV. WILLIAM F. REVELL has resigned the pastorate of the Congregational church at South Petherton, Somerset, in consequence of ill-health.

GLASGOW—QUEEN'S ROOMS.—The Rev. William Pulsford, of Edinburgh, has accepted the invitation of the Congregational church worshipping at present in the above place, and will commence his labours there at the beginning of next month.

YORK.—The Rev. John Edwards, of Airedale College, has accepted a cordial invitation to become the assistant minister to the Rev. James Parsons, of St. James Chapel, York. Mr. Edwards intends to commence his duties in March next.

OSWESTRY.—The members of the church assembling at the Old Chapel, Oswestry, have invited the Rev. T. Gasquoine, B.A., late of Bradford, to become their minister, and the reverend gentleman has accepted the invitation.

HEADINGLEY, NEAR LEEDS.—On Friday evening week a meeting of gentlemen belonging to the Congregational body, and residing in Headingley and the neighbourhood, was held in Dr. Brewer's school-room (kindly lent for the purpose), to consider the subject of the proposed erection of a new chapel on Headingley Hill. It was unanimously resolved to erect an elegant and commodious Independent church and schools on a site which had been already secured by the liberality and foresight of Mr. W. Scholefield and Mr. W. H. Conyers. We are happy to learn that upwards of 1,900*l.* was subscribed in the room before the close of the meeting.

BEXLEY HEATH, KENT.—The Rev. John Adey, pastor of the Congregational chapel of this place, has undergone three operations for cataract in both eyes. The last has proved successful, and the sight of one eye is mercifully restored. On Wednesday, the 20th ult., a special meeting for thanksgiving and prayer was held in the school-room, which was numerously attended. On that occasion Mr. Adey was presented with a purse containing sixty sovereigns, as an expression of sympathy with him in his recent trials, respect for his character and ministry, and gratitude to God for answer to prayer on his behalf. Among the contributors were the rev. the vicar of the parish, the churchwarden, many of the principal inhabitants of the village, and nearly every member of the church and congregation.

MR. JOS. CROSSLEY'S ALMSHOUSES—OPENING OF THE NEW CHAPEL.—The chapel connected with Mr. Joseph Crossley's almshouses was opened for Divine worship on Wednesday evening last, when the Rev. J. Simpson, of Ebenezer Chapel, Halifax, preached a suitable sermon. The chapel was well filled, nearly all the tenants, and several persons from the town, being present. At the close of the services, Mr. Crossley desired to say a few words. He said he had great pleasure in taking part in the first service held in that room; and also in seeing so many of the tenants of the houses present, and hoped they would be happy, and endeavour to do one another good. Indeed he was sure if they were as happy in living there as he was in erecting the houses, they would be very happy. He was happy to tell them the endowment of the houses was completed, and therefore their maintenance was not now dependent on the whim or caprice of him or any other man. He hoped they would be happy for the rest of their lives, and be thankful to God for their position, as it was His grace that had inclined him to do as he had done.—*Halifax Courier*.

SOUTHAMPTON—ABOVE-BAR CHAPEL.—The annual meeting of the church and congregation was held on Thursday evening, when about 300 sat down to tea in the school-room. The place was very tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens. After tea there was an adjournment to the chapel, where some pieces of sacred music were sung by the choir, Mr. Lucas presiding at the organ. The chair was taken in the school-room at seven o'clock by the Rev. Thos. Adkins, the senior pastor, and the rooms were completely filled. The chapel account in all its details was furnished by Mr. Yonge and Mr. Buchanan, and a cordial vote of thanks was given to the latter gentleman for his kind and valuable services as treasurer. The Rev. H. H. Carlisle, B.A., the junior pastor, then gave a sketch of the work

done during the past year, and a statement of the moneys raised and expended by the different agencies of the church and congregation. The Sunday-schools were represented by Mr. Fryer, the town mission by the Rev. G. Gregg, and the home mission by the Rev. W. H. Bower. The statements made indicated vitality and progress, and, while some accounts showed a balance due to the treasurer, they were on the whole very satisfactory. The whole sum actually raised by the church and congregation during the past year, and applied to the payment of salaries and the support of various institutions, exceeds 1,800*l.*; besides which there have been extra contributions to the Bicentenary fund and to the Bishop's Waltham Chapel-building fund, amounting to about 200*l.*

TORQUAY.—The anniversary services in connection with the Abbey-road Independent Chapel were held on Sunday, January 24th, when two sermons were preached by the Right Hon. Lord Teynham. On the Monday evening following, a social meeting took place in the school-room, when about 400 of the friends partook of tea together; subsequently an adjournment took place to the chapel, when a public meeting was held. Alfred Rooker, Esq., of Plymouth, occupied the chair. The chairman having congratulated the church on the flourishing aspect of their affairs, Mr. Weeks referred to the small beginnings which had resulted in building, not only the chapel, but the school-room as well. He believed the chapel, with the excavations and incidental expenses, cost 2,326*l.*, and when opened there was a debt upon it of 1,280*l.* About three or four years ago they made an effort and reduced that amount to 800*l.*, but the vestries which were built afterwards raised it to 1,000*l.*, and at that sum it had remained ever since. In the interim they had built the schools and paid for them. Now they were out of debt. The chairman then presented the Rev. F. F. Thomas, the pastor, with a purse containing eighty sovereigns, on behalf of the congregation and church of Abbey-road Chapel, as a token of the affection they entertained towards their pastor. (Great applause.) The Rev. F. F. Thomas having appropriately acknowledged the presentation, Mr. H. Coombes stated in detail the result of their recent movements, and said that they hoped to be able to do much more now that the burden which had weighed upon them in the shape of interest had been removed. They had commenced preaching the Gospel in one of the neighbouring villages—Marlboro'. One of the causes of their having done so well was their having had such a minister among them. The Right Hon. Lord Teynham delivered a short address on the subject of Christian sympathy. The meeting was subsequently addressed by the Rev. W. M. Paull, of Totnes; Rev. James King (Baptist); Rev. H. Cross, and Mr. Hubbard, of Bradford. The chairman believed that the present building—large as it was, and able as it was to accommodate a good congregation—was not to be the final resting-place of the Congregationalists in Torquay. What had happened there was certainly an evidence of the Christian life of the congregation. In Plymouth they were just now building a church which they hoped would accommodate their congregation. When that building was finished their friends at Plymouth must also try to have no dead debts to deal with. They would try to build it without any debt at all. Did it not strike them at the meeting that night, that what had been done during the past two years was not merely an evidence that in that church and congregation there must be Christian life, combined with earnestness in the pulpit and in the pew, but that the whole process of that two years' effort had been a real benefit—a sort of spiritual gymnastics, by which their religious strength had been increased? They could not be the worse or the poorer for what they had done. His friend had said truly that there lay beyond them a world asking them, though not perhaps in words, for help. In one form or another those solicitations were coming to them, and there were those in their populous towns and country districts who looked to them for help. If they responded to the call, God would aid them in the endeavour to further the accomplishment of His Divine purposes. Votes of thanks were passed to Lord Teynham and Mr. Rooker, and the meeting closed with prayer and the doxology.

Correspondence.

THE ADMISSION OF BAPTISTS TO THE CONGREGATIONAL UNION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

DEAR SIR,—A most important letter appears in this month's *Christian Spectator*, suggesting that some steps should be taken to bring about the admission of Congregationalists who practise immersion into the Union of Congregationalists who practise infant-sprinkling. I believe, Sir, this proposal is the most valuable contribution yet made, on the question of the union of these two sections of the Congregationalists of England. The modifications required in the action of the Congregational Union as it is, are very slight. Already its Foreign Missionary Society admits those who practise immersion into the number of its agents. There has lately been a lengthened discussion of the question of trust-deeds at its board meetings. I have not heard the issue of the adjourned debate, but I hope the advocates of freedom were successful in their aims. The only other point is that referred to by "Fax," in the *Christian Spectator*.

I feel tolerably certain that this proposal will meet with a very cordial response from many Baptist ministers. For years past the subject has been talked of between individual Baptists, though without resulting in any action; and it was only last month, in a group of

some ten or eleven ministers, the question was put—Who will vote in favour of an application to be made for the admission of Baptists to the Congregational Union?—and eight of the number voted most heartily for the application to be made.

Of course there will be a very large number of Baptist ministers, to whom their view of baptism is more precious than their principles as Congregationalists, and these will scout the proposition, as a mournful evidence of the downward tendencies of the age. I beg to commend to these brethren the address delivered last year at the annual meeting of the Baptist Union, by the venerable Mr. Hinton. The chief aim of that address is to demonstrate, that a close, earnest, and practical union of the Baptist denomination is impossible, and the experience of the last half-century is the strongest argument that can be adduced in support of his view. I have come to the conviction that this conclusion is the right one, though I have resisted it for a long time, and now yield with the deepest regret. A large number of Baptist ministers are, as Mr. Robinson of Cambridge once said (I believe it was last spring, at a meeting of the Baptist Union), far more in sympathy with Independent ministers generally, than with very many of their Baptist brethren. This severance of one section of Baptist ministers from the rest becomes more apparent and decisive, as Mr. Hinton enlarges, perfectly I suppose, —the list of Baptist ministers in his *Almanack and Manual*. It surely is a fitting thing that they who are one in all that constitutes them preachers of the Gospel, and pastors of churches, should be one in conference and co-operation for the more extended and rapid triumph of those principles of Christian freedom which in common they hold so dear. In the ecclesiastical convulsion which is manifestly coming on, it is of immeasurable importance that Nonconformists should be as thoroughly and as organically united as is possible. We shall need all our strength to preserve the freedom we have acquired, and to hand to those who come after us, those rights unsullied and unweakened for which our fathers bled and we have worked.

I trust, Mr. Editor, you will once more open your columns to this discussion, if it be only for three or four weeks, in order that the question thus opened may receive a calm and patient consideration, before any action shall be taken. This open discussion will prepare both Baptist and Pædobaptist ministers to enter wisely into deliberation, if it be found desirable to bring the matter before the two Unions or either of them.

I am, Sir, yours truly,

A BAPTIST MINISTER.

February 2, 1864.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P., ON THE QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

In the Postscript of our last number we were only able to notice in the most cursory manner the masterly and elaborate speech of Mr. Bright, in the Town Hall, Birmingham, on the 26th ult. The most important part of his address was devoted to the land question. He repeated the statements of his Rochdale speech as to the deplorable condition of the agricultural population, supporting them with references to the letters of "S. G. O.," to certain correspondence from Buckinghamshire, published in the *Star* newspaper, and to a witness nobody there would call in question, the *Saturday Review*. From an article in the *Saturday Review* of 26th September last, on agricultural labourers, the hon. gentleman then read, among others, the following extract:—

When the dull season of the year comes round, that is between October and the meeting of Parliament, all sorts of odd persons and things have their share of public attention, and even agricultural labourers are pitted and discussed. At other times they live on with no one much to care for them, the farmer looking on them as his natural enemies, the parson's kindly soul getting weary of his long combat with their helpless, stolid ignorance, and the squire not knowing what he can do for them further than build two or three Elizabethan cottages, covered with honeysuckle, close to his gates. If foreigners write about them we are moved to a languid shame and sadness by thinking how true the picture, and what wretched, uncared-for, untaught brutes the people are who raise the crops on which we live.

Mr. Bright then noticed the remedy proposed by the *Saturday Review*—that the poor man should be allowed to receive relief from a larger area than the parish, namely, the union. This remedy he certainly did not think sufficient, and he renewed his question:—Was it an unchangeable law that our agricultural population should continue in that condition? In European countries, where land was divided by the operation of the law, the peasantry were better off than here. He advocated unlimited power of bequest like they had in the United States, and objected to the law of primogeniture. No doubt there were reasons, high political reasons, for the law. (Laughter.)

In Turkey they were most curious, going the length of letting the elder brother cut off the heads of his younger brethren. What would they think if younger children were cut off from all education? But that would be just as reasonable as to cut them off from a fair share of their father's property. As to the law being useless on account of the power of will-making, he would say that it would make a great difference, taking the sanction of law from the present system. Laws themselves, the creatures of public opinion, often powerfully reacted upon it. The political reasons were, that the possessors of land were the possessors of political power. It was so in France and America. If you come to your own country, if you come to your own county of Warwick, you will find that two or three landowners can sit down and determine who shall or who shall not go to Parliament, in the pretended representation of the population of this country. (Cries of "Shame.") I believe that these vast properties, which are of no real advantage to those who hold them—for 100,000l. or 200,000l. can give no more real happiness than 10,000l. or 5,000l. a year—I believe that these great properties give great political power, and that this which we call our great territorial system prevails to an extent in this country which is probably unknown in any other, and leaves the

cultivators of the soil ignorant and hopeless and [degraded.] (Cheers.)

It was his wish to elevate the agricultural labourer above the condition where he could only earn 6s. or 10s. a week, and, not to be misrepresented by "the man in the mask," he went on to describe the various natural tendencies in this country towards the accumulation of land in masses.

Now, for fear that the man in the mask—he has got his mask on again for a time—(laughter)—for fear the man in the mask should misrepresent my views, let me tell you that I am not against great estates, or great farmers, or great properties, or great factories; but I have a great desire to see small estates, and small farmers, and small factories. In this country, where there is such a great creation of wealth, there is always a great desire for the accumulation of land. I know the case of a nobleman; it is in a southern county—I am speaking from public report—who is said to have 120,000l. a year, but who, being a wise man as regards his expenditure, only spends 40,000l. a year; but it is a mystery to me how he does it. (Laughter.) He had thus 80,000l. a year left, and (what does he do with it? Why, he buys every farm, every estate that offers, and thus his estate is gradually growing bigger. I don't blame him for that. I applaud him in this respect—that he is a man who does not waste his property; and I have always heard that the nobleman to whom I refer bears an excellent character in the neighbourhood where he lives. There are persons who come from Manchester and from Leeds—and, I hope, from Birmingham—who can purchase considerable estates. There is always a tendency in this country, especially where we have so much manufacturing and commercial industry and wealth, to buy estates; their possession gives great social position and great political influence. I am not complaining of this; it is a natural and a just and a healthy thing. It is desirable that the farmer should have the stimulus of ambition to acquire larger farms, and that even those possessing estates should wish to acquire larger estates. This is the stimulus which leads men to strive for something honourable in this country. But to have all these influences working in that direction, and to add to this influence the force of a most intricate and complicated system of law, to give all these forces greater force, is, in my opinion, contrary to all the true interests of England, and I believe that if it goes on in this way for another half-century, as it has been for the last half-century, it may cause discontent and great embarrassment within this now peaceful kingdom. (Cheers.)

The *Spectator*—not a Radical newspaper—went much further with proposed alterations of the law than he did. As to entails, he should be content if property could only be left to persons already in existence. Another point was the transfer of land.

The man who buys, and the man who sells property, finds the law regulating the transfer so complicated, that if Solomon himself were here he could not come to any fair decision about it, except that very curious one which he is reported to have come to upon another point. (Cheers and laughter.) Now, everything which I am proposing is carried out to a somewhat greater extent in the United States, in most of the States, and to a greater extent on the continent of Europe, and it is being carried out in all the Australian colonies. It is the most curious thing in the world, that whenever an Englishman leaves these shores, whether it be the effect of the salt air, or of sea-sickness, or of that prolonged meditation which a long voyage invites, he seems to peel off, not the rags of his body, but the verminous rags of his intellect and soul. He lands in Australia with his eyes perfectly clear, and he can see things in a common-sense manner. (Laughter and cheers.) Now, I want to ask you, as reasonable men and men of business, if there is a man here who cannot understand the question moderately well in the way in which I have endeavoured to put it. Is this spoliation? Is this agrarian outrage? Is this stimulating working men and the agricultural labourer to—what shall I say?—incendiarism, or anything else they may have recourse to? It is nothing of the kind. It is laying before them just principles of law, admitted to be just in every other country in the world except this, and which we admit to be just in regard to everything else, charged with all sorts of dreadful things by that gentleman in the mask.

The hon. gentleman concluded by an argument to show that he was speaking really in the interest of landowners themselves, who were every day becoming fewer in number; and he anticipated that as they had been benefited by the repeal of the Corn Law, of which they were afraid, so they would be by this. It was only a repetition of the past that he should be vilified and abused, especially by the "man in the mask," for proposing these very measures which were afterwards found beneficial. He warned landowners against the dangers of prolonged unjust legislation; instead of a moderate measure, there might come proposals like those of the *Code Napoléon*.

Messrs. Bright and Scholefield attended the meetings of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday. Mr. Bright spoke of the patent laws, and characterised them as "no law at all, but a jumble of chaos," and said he believed that neither the public nor inventors would lose anything if they were abolished. His arguments, however, were rather in favour of an amendment than an abolition of these laws. He also referred to maritime law, and remarked with satisfaction that nations were now less inclined to go to war than they formerly were.

On Friday night a portion of Mr. Bright's constituents at Birmingham entertained him at a *soirée*, held at the Royal Hotel. About 250 sat down to a highly sumptuous repast. Mr. Scholefield was prevented, by previously contracted engagements, from being present. The Mayor presided, and introduced a number of gentlemen to the meeting, who submitted the following sentiments:—"The Queen, and the Royal Family"; "The land we live in"; "Civil Commercial, and Religious Freedom throughout the World"; "Education, indispensable to Political Progress"; and "Association the means of Political Power."

The Rev. R. W. DALE, in speaking to the last sentiment, remarked, in reference to the coming elections, that there was no man in the House of Commons whom the Conservatives would more gladly see out of it than Mr. Bright. (Hear.) But he had no idea that his seat was in danger. (Loud and protracted cheers.) He would be a bold man indeed who would now come forward to oppose Mr. Bright, and would inevitably receive the lesson in humility taught to his opponent at the last election. The sentiment was rapturously cheered.

Mr. W. MORGAN proposed "Success to the patriotic labours of the member for the borough." The proposition was enthusiastically received.

Mr. BRIGHT, on rising to respond, was received with loud and prolonged cheering. He referred to the request of a gentleman before coming to the meeting that he would make a speech upon the bright side of England. (Laughter and applause.) It was supposed that he took a gloomy view of the position and prospects of this country. Well, they would admit that there were many speakers and writers in this country, whose business it seemed to be to persuade everybody in England that everybody was well treated and perfectly happy. Well, if everybody was contented and happy, and nothing that it was their business to reform, he should certainly stay at home. ("Hear," and applause.) He had no fondness for political meetings and platform words. He should not for the last twenty-five years have given the whole of his time to public questions if nothing was necessary but to come before an audience and rejoice with them at the glorious position they all occupied. (Laughter and applause.) Yet there was a bright side to the aspect of England in those great reforms which had been effected—changes which he, at any rate, had the satisfaction of knowing that he had supported, and changes which most of those who would wish him to speak in a different tone had done their utmost to oppose. ("Hear," and applause.) Mr. Bright then proceeded to sketch the changes alluded to, describing the history of the Catholic Emancipation Act, the Reform Bill, the repeal of the Test and Corporation Act, the emancipation of the slaves in the British colonies, the passing of the Poor Law, the repeal of the Corn Law, the establishment of the French Treaty, and the abolition of the paper-duty. In the course of his review he made various remarks connecting these reforms with the present aspect of affairs. He then remarked that it was a curious thing that every one of these measures was now admitted by almost general consent to have been just and beneficial. (Hear.) Referring to the remarks of the London press that he had acted as the advertising agent of the American Government, in his speech on emigration, he said that the advertising agents of emigration were those who refused to do justice to the English people. (Applause.) Commenting on the immense emigration from Ireland, he dwelt in terms of indignation on the wrongs inflicted on the Irish nation, especially reprobating the compulsory maintenance of the Irish Protestant Church. He then passed to foreign affairs. Alluding to the numerous newspaper paragraphs, hinting at the possible interference in the Danoo-German difficulty on the part of the British Government, he (Mr. Bright) suggested that they might have been put out as "feelers" to get the state of the public mind on the question, or with a view to an effect on Austria and Prussia.

There may be members of the Cabinet at this moment who are not aware of the steps which are taken from day to day and of the despatches which are written, of the suggestions which are thrown out and the resolutions partly come to, which being once arrived at and determined by the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, the other members of the Cabinet find themselves unable to resist. If there be any member of the Cabinet who has not that secret knowledge, and finds that matters are advancing to a fatal catastrophe, the catastrophe of war, let me beseech him, as he values the peace of his conscience during his lifetime, and his reputation with his fellow-men, which is of much less real value—let me beseech him to insist upon knowing every single thing that is done, and to determine that he will not be made a partner in transactions, it may be in great errors, it may be in great crimes, which he and his country for all history to come may have occasion to regret. (Loud cheers.) At present there is no excitement on the question between Denmark and Germany so far as I can understand. I have not seen a paper written out of London which argues in favour of war; I don't think the London papers generally, so far as I have heard, have stimulated the country to violent action; but let us here, let the people everywhere, have their eyes wide open at this moment, and by every means in their power let them understand that, while we are willing to sympathise with any monarch, or it may be with any State under difficulties of any kind, we consider it our duty to guard the permanent and future interests of the population of this island, and show also that, looking over our past history for the last 200 years, we have come to the fixed determination that the power of England shall not be exerted, the blood of England shall not be spilt, the wealth created by the sweat of Englishmen shall not be squandered, except it be in some great cause in which the solid and permanent interests of this country are engaged. (Loud cheers.)

The hon. gentleman concluded with a few remarks of a personal nature as between himself and his constituents, and resumed his seat amid loud applause.

THE "WITNESS" NEWSPAPER.—On Wednesday the *Witness* newspaper was exposed for sale in the auction-rooms of Mr. Dowell, George-street. There were about a dozen and a-half people present, most of whom had evidently assembled from mere curiosity. The copyright from the 1st March next was exposed at an upset price of 500l.; but as there was not a single bidder, the sale was adjourned.—*Sootman*.

REFORM DEMONSTRATION AT BRADFORD.

On Thursday evening, a most enthusiastic meeting was held in the Bradford Mechanics' Institute, to consider the present position of the Liberal party with respect to the reform question and the approaching election. An influential requisition, signed by nearly forty of the leading Liberals of the town, was presented to the Liberal Registration Association, asking for a public meeting for the above-named object, which was at once complied with. Alderman Brown was voted to the chair, and the proceedings commenced by the reading of the requisition.

Mr. JOHN PRIESTMAN moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting, considering that the unsatisfactory character of the Reform Bill proposed by Lord Derby was the immediate cause which led to the dissolution of the last Parliament—that the present Government came into power, and that the Liberal members of the present Parliament were returned on the express condition that they would carry a substantial and honest measure of parliamentary reform—hereby expresses its disappointment and indignation at the indifference and bad faith which have betrayed the just hopes of the people and frustrated the expectations which inspired the Liberal party at the last election.

Mr. ROBERT KELL seconded the motion. For his part, he considered that the House of Commons had done worse than nothing. It had broken promises—violated pledges—and he considered that worse than nothing. (Applause.) He would put it to them, whether or not such conduct was calculated to shake confidence in public men, and seriously damage the public morality.

Two working men (Mr. WILKINSON and Mr. GREENWOOD) supported the motion, the former advocating a household suffrage, and the latter denouncing Lord Palmerston and Lord Russell as traitors for betraying the trust of the people. Both urged their brother non-electors to bestir themselves in the matter of reform.

The resolution was carried with acclamation.

Mr. Councillor WHITEHEAD moved—

That this meeting believing that the continuance of such anomalies and inequities as Church-rates, the Irish Church, and the enormous expenditure and unequal taxation of the country is directly due to the inadequate extent to which the people are represented in the House of Commons, recognises a large extension of the franchise as a step absolutely necessary to any further progress, and essential to the realisation of both the acknowledged aims and objects of the Liberal party.

It was an assertion easily capable of proof, that in those questions mentioned in the resolution, there had been absolute retrogression in Parliament, and that was doing worse than nothing. There was the Church-rate question, for instance. Why at the present moment that question stood in a much worse position in Parliament than it did some years ago. In 1859, the abolition of Church-rates had been carried in the House of Commons by a majority of seventy-four; last session there was a majority of ten against that abolition. This was a forcible illustration of the powerlessness of the Liberal party, on a question, too, in which that party was pretty well united. After thirty years of agitation on this question, there was actually a Liberal majority against this measure. That was what he called retrogression. (Hear, hear.) Then there was the question of the Irish Church. Thirty years ago this had been the great Whig question. The Liberals had turned out Sir Robert Peel's Ministry on the strength of it, and taken office themselves; and now after thirty years, with a Liberal majority in the House, it still existed. It was his conviction that they would gain nothing of what they sought till some measure of reform had been secured. He would say the same to the Liberation Society: he had said it in their conference the previous day at Halifax. Let them educate the country, and diffuse information, by all means; but they would not be much nearer the success of their aims till an adequate representation had been obtained. Let the House of Commons be what it professed to be, not the representation of a class, but a reflex of public opinion. (Applause.)

Mr. B. HARRISON, in seconding the motion, made strong allusions to certain so-called Liberals. They were men who had deceived not only the constituency that sent them, but they were men who had deceived themselves. (Laughter and applause.) A lot of them had been seeking place and power, and had moved heaven and earth to get into Parliament, in order to have place and power. He alluded to Sir John Ruskin, and men of that sort. (Loud applause.) Let the Liberal party express its opinions and show that they would not be mistaken in that way.

Alderman GODWIN thought such a programme as that of the resolution ought not to be taken as the programme of the Liberal party. There were two of those questions—the enormous expenditure and unequal taxation—couched in very general terms, and in such terms as pointed to no specific measure, and from which no party man, either Whig, Tory, or Radical, would dissent. One might take it to refer to the income tax, another to the duty on fire insurance, and so on. After all, the two questions which were to form the programme of the Liberal party, Church-rates and the Irish Church—(cries of "No, no")—were specific enough. It had been said that they were the two questions upon which the Liberal party seem agreed, but taking it for granted that they were two of the best subjects which could possibly be collected, he thought there were other questions upon which the Liberal party always used to be as much agreed as those two. They used to be agreed upon the question of the Corn Laws, the question of the ballot, the shortening of the duration of Parliament. There was also the law of primogeniture, which it was more than ever necessary to turn their attention to—(Hear, hear)—and the doctrine of non-intervention also, he

thought, should occupy as much of their attention as those alluded to in the resolution. He would have preferred a resolution to this effect:—"That this meeting recommends the right of the working classes to the franchise, and the benefits which flow from the exercise of that right; and this meeting claims, on behalf of the working classes, a fair, honest, and effectual representation in the Commons House of Parliament." (Applause.) He thought that resolution would be placing the matter in its true aspect; but he loved union too well to be the means of promoting any disunion in that meeting.

Mr. A. ILLINGWORTH did not conceive that the specific allusions to the anomalies referred to in the resolution as existing in the House of Commons was intended to be a programme for that night. They were not put forward in any sense as a programme, but merely stated as facts, illustrating the dead-lock to which the members of the House of Commons had arrived.

Mr. B. WAINWRIGHT was in favour of the resolution remaining as it stood. There was no doubt that the question of Church-rates and the Irish Church would soon be brought before Parliament, and the Liberal party would then have an opportunity of taking action upon them. There could be no reasonable objection to the views expressed by Mr. Godwin, but in his opinion it was not necessary to insert them in the resolution. (Hear, hear.)

Councillor WHITEHEAD had not the remotest idea, in proposing that resolution, of sketching a programme for the Liberal party. He looked upon those matters simply as illustrations, showing the Liberal party the necessity of re-invigorating Parliament by the admission into it of new elements. (Applause.)

Mr. B. HARRISON said that no one would doubt that Mr. Godwin was anxious for the abolition of Church-rates, but he would say that those persons who were so delicately nerved that they dare not even hear Church-rates and the Irish Church mentioned might go into mourning for the Liberal party as soon as they liked. (Laughter and applause.)

Alderman GODWIN asked Mr. Whitehead if he had any objection to inserting after the words, "taxation of the country," contained in the resolution, the words, "and the delay in other important questions." If so, he would have no objection to the resolution whatever.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and also carried unanimously, and amid loud cheers.

Alderman FRITH rose to move the next resolution, which was to the following effect:—

That this meeting, regarding the proposed bill of Mr. Baines for a 6d. franchise in towns, and that of Mr. Locke King for a 1d. franchise in counties, as affording a favourable opportunity for testing the sincerity of the Liberal members prior to the next general election, calls upon the Liberal party throughout the country for a renewed and energetic effort in support of those measures, and urges strongly upon the unfranchised to show, by a firm and unanimous demonstration of opinion, that they will no longer submit to be deprived of their just share in the national representation.

It would be a valuable and important point if they were able to ascertain how the Liberal party stood at present. They would all remember the recent speech of a Cabinet Minister to his constituents. That gentleman professed to speak for the Government, when he said that it was not to be expected that in such matters as reform the Government should lead and head the people; but that if the people demanded such a measure as was wished it would be granted them. He believed they might, in such a case, trust Mr. Milner Gibson, but he was afraid there were other members of the Cabinet who were less favourable to reform.

Alderman KENION, in seconding the motion, said that the House of Commons, which had proved false, sheltered itself beneath the fact that the people of England were not sufficiently demonstrative when the question was before them, and it was for that reason that he thought the masses of the people had been remiss in their duty. (Applause.) But it did not follow that they should continue to neglect it. (Renewed applause.) He did think there had been a political education going on exceedingly disastrous to the future prospects of this country. When they placed unfit men in power, their actions were too readily imitated by the great masses of the people, and the result was a state of apathy, coldness, and indifference. He must affirm that this was too much the fact. But it was not at all impossible that the people would be roused to a state of indignation, and the prediction of Mr. Henley would be realised—that the people of this country might make an ugly rush for enfranchisement at a particular juncture of the nation's history when it was desirable that they should be peaceable and quiet. (Hear, hear.) There never was a time when the working classes were prepared to violate law and order to a less extent than they were prepared to do at the present period—(loud cheers)—and if there ever was a time when a large section of the community might be enfranchised, that was the present, and their rulers had no excuse for withholding it. (Applause.)

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Alderman LAW proposed, and Alderman SMITH seconded—

That a petition, embodying the resolutions, be presented to the House of Commons by Mr. H. W. Wickham, M.P., the senior member, and to be supported by Mr. W. E. Forster, M.P.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

A cordial vote of thanks having been given to the chairman, and acknowledged by him, the crowded meeting dispersed.

THE LANCASHIRE OPERATIVES.—The increase of pauperism in the Lancashire cotton districts was small last week, amounting in the twenty-seven unions to only 144 persons.

TERRIBLE CATASTROPHE IN CHILI.

The West India mail-steamer, the *Atrato*, brings intelligence of a terrible conflagration which took place at Santiago on the evening of the 8th December, in the church of La Compania. Upwards of 2,000 persons were burned to death, one-third, at least, ladies, and who are said to be mostly young, the flower of the beauty and fashion of the capital. The following particulars of this awful calamity are given in a private letter, dated Santiago, Dec. 17th:—

A dreadful accident occurred in Santiago on the 8th inst., which has plunged the whole city, and indeed the whole country, into mourning. Two thousand human beings, principally women, perished by fire on that day, and were consumed in the short space of a quarter of an hour, without assistance of any kind, or rather because it was out of the bystanders' power to afford them any help.

The 8th of December is in Catholic countries a great feast-day, being the anniversary of the *Purissima Concepcion* of the Virgin Mary. During the previous month the Church de la Compania, so called because it belonged formerly to the Jesuits (*Compania de Jesus*), had been celebrating the devotional practices and offices that correspond to the *Mes de Maria*, a copy or imitation of what at the same period of the year takes place in French churches. The month ends on the 8th of December, or the Feast of the Conception of the Virgin, and on the evening of that day the church was to be illuminated and adorned with flowers and garlands with more profusion than on former evenings. I may mention that many who had visited this church on former occasions had complained of the suffocation produced by the great agglomeration of people, and especially of the danger likely to be incurred by the great number of lights on the principal altar, and, indeed, all round the church, but it seems no measures were taken to prevent a serious accident. The church was capacious enough to contain, in my opinion, 3,000 women, packed as they are in these countries, sitting and kneeling on the floor, on their own hand-carpets, which each lady carries with her. Besides those who could accommodate themselves inside (for which purpose many took their seats outside the church three hours before the doors were opened), nearly 500 were left outside, sitting on the steps of the church near the doors, and just close enough to hear the music or catch a few stray words from the preacher.

On the 8th, being a feast-day, the devotees were exceedingly numerous, although a great many ladies preferred going to the Alameda, or Avenue of Poplars, which is the grand promenade; but, on the other hand, all the servant girls in town received permission to attend. The doors of the church opened at six o'clock (or near that time), and the women took their places, each one scrambling, as usual, for the best, or that nearest the pulpit and principal altar. The servant-boys (or lamplighters) commenced lighting the lamps; unfortunately they were not fed with oil, but with camphine, or, as it is called here, "gas portatil." The principal image of the Virgin, in the centre of the altar, was supported by a fine half-moon or crescent of brilliant lamps. On lighting these an accident took place (the details are not known or well investigated). The fire communicated to the other surrounding lamps, to the artificial flowers and garlands, candles, &c.

Either the people inside the church did not perceive the fire, or the greater part thought it might be easily extinguished (as on previous nights it was not uncommon to see the lamplighters blundering in their task), or some may have thought it best to wait, and may have been unwilling to lose their places. Meanwhile, the fire had extended to the roof, which was of wood, and to the dome, also of wood, and the spectators began to perceive the danger they were in. Many left the church quietly, but in a few minutes the greatest confusion prevailed. The 3,000 inmates of the church ran to the doors. The building has three large doors in the front, but only one—the centre one—was available; the others were always closed, and never made use of. The two side-doors of the church were also available; but the chief number ran to the principal or front door, and the side-door that opens on Bandera-street. The other side-door opens on a small court, at the side of the new Congress, a building yet unfinished.

About a third of the congregation, it appears, managed to run out and escape, but the rest of the women fell upon each other at the very doors, and, instead of opening a passage to let others escape, formed a complete wedge, and the bodies remained locked together in rows one upon the other; these masses becoming every moment higher and more compact, and none being able to extricate herself, as she was fastened or caught hold of by a dozen hands behind her. You can imagine the shrieks and agonies of these poor creatures struggling for life, and endeavouring to escape from the middle of the church, where the fire had already taken possession of the dome, and where the lamps and chandeliers were falling. It is natural to suppose that they must have fled to the side nave, and placed themselves under the arches. But meanwhile the fire advanced, and no outlet was to be found. The doors were obstructed. Some few passers-by had given the alarm. Many flocked to the Plazuela de la Compania, reached the doors, and tried to pull the people out; but it was impossible; it required the strength of a steam-engine to move the compact mass of human beings locked together. Some with outstretched arms beckoned to those outside; others implored assistance, calling the succourers by their names; others could hardly speak, and only signified their wishes by a motion of their heads or lips. Some were suffocated with the weight of those above and around them; others were suffocated with the flames and smoke. Those who ventured to rescue them had to be brought or pulled out by a dozen companions, more dead than alive. All was confusion and alarm, the bystanders tearing their hair and running about wild in the streets without being able to afford the least assistance. A man on horseback, a country *guaso*, threw his *lazo* (or rope of hide, which they always carry attached to the saddle) into the church, and a thousand hands tried to catch hold of it. Some did seize it, and were dragged out by the man and the strength of the horse; but the second time the same attempt was made the *lazo* gave way. A few moments afterwards the bystanders saw the women inside in flames. Their clothes had caught fire; the fire had reached their heads, and their hair was on fire. A great flame came across the church; the doors and other wooden parts took fire. The

sufferers dropped down their heads and arms with a shriek, and all was silence. The church was a furnace, above and below,—the roof and the victims underneath. Never was there such a spectacle, nor do I think history can present a parallel.

When I reached the spot all the interior of the church was a red flame. I only heard the cries and wailing of the people in the square and streets; the running about of wild men, and the crash of the dome falling in the midst of the ruins. A few minutes afterwards the tower or spire, also of wood, caught fire, and in a quarter of an hour was consumed and fell into the church. "How many victims have perished?" every one asked; every one was calling out for his mother, his wife, his sister, relatives, &c. I immediately calculated that 1,500 souls had perished, as I saw no women in the *plazuela* or streets. Some thought sixty or 100 a great figure, but during the evening the truth was to be discovered. Few had escaped; a small number had been brought out, half burnt and in a deplorable state. As the fire burnt itself out—for here we have, it is shameful to say, no fire-engines—the bodies in the church began to be visible, as they lay in horizontal strata, or in groups standing or kneeling, in their last posture, as the fire had caught them; the greater portion near the doors, others under the arches, others under the great bell, which had fallen on the group near the principal door. The appalling idea then presented itself to some persons that the dead numbered 500 or 600, but next morning, when the bodies were removed and counted, the first lot numbered 1,400, and still many remained. According to the lists of people missing which the papers publish, the victims outnumber 2,000. According to these lists the greater portion—say two-thirds—are servants and people of the humbler class; one-third at least belong to the principal families of Santiago.

The consternation was so great, the blow so tremendous, and the spectacle so appalling, that this catastrophe passed at first like a dream. None of the living slept that night, nor could many sleep for successive nights after.

There is hardly a family in Santiago that does not mourn the loss of some near relative. Two thousand victims sacrificed in a quarter of an hour, in a small enclosure sixty yards by thirty!

Speaking of the conduct of the priests, the *Mercurio* of Valparaiso says:—

The population of Santiago, so supine and priest-ridden, is fired with indescribable indignation at the monstrous conduct of the priests. The public conscience holds them guilty of the death of all these victims, and particularly the mountebank Ugarte, the inventor of the "Virgin's Post-office" imposture, because, by collecting together all the material most likely to produce a fire—a countless number of lights, pasteboard scenery, and mask hangings, admitting a vast crowd, and covering the one door open with a screen, they took every pains to bring about this tragedy. When the fire broke out, and people were escaping by the sacristy, they blocked up this door, to devote themselves the more undisturbedly to saving their gimcracks. The list of things saved makes one's blood run cold. What the priests saved, what they have put away in cigar-shops and the houses in front, are—a gilt image, some wooden saints, a sacred sofa or two, some books, chalices, silver candlesticks, and a great deal of sacred matting and carpet!

After saving their trash, these specimens of the good shepherds that gave their life for their sheep, flew away in company with the owls and bats that infested the ancient walls, except that one priest favoured the agonising victims with his absolution, and Ugarte requested them to "die happy, because they went direct to Mary." They then forsook the scene, and in that awful night—when fainting women and desperate men strewed the streets, and writhing forms that a few hours ago were graceful and beautiful maidens, moaned and died in chemists' shops—not a priest was to be seen to whisper a word of Christ's comfort to the dying ear, or hold the precious crucifix before the glazing eye.

On the 11th the priests appeared on the scene to take possession of the blackened ruins and insult public opinion by droning masses for the souls whose bodies they had destroyed, but the sentinels drove them off with the butt-ends of their muskets. There has been a demand that the church shall be razed to the ground, but it is doubtful whether the Government dare comply with it.

THE FRIENDS OF THE FREEDMAN.

We have received from the Rev. John Curwen, of Plaistow, hon. sec. to the Freedman's Aid Society, a letter describing what is now being done in America on behalf of the "contraband" negroes. In 1861, when the Federals took possession of Port Royal Inlet and the well-known Sea Islands, Mr. E. L. Pierce, formerly a member of the Massachusetts Assembly, and more recently a soldier, was appointed to report concerning the negroes on the abandoned plantations of that vast district. How superintendents and teachers went out to Port Royal, how some 5,000 were raised in the Northern States, and how women from the schools and from the most respectable positions of private life, and young men of practical talent and experience, fresh from the colleges of Harvard, Yale, and Brown, and from the divinity schools of Andover and Cambridge, subsequently volunteered for this new service, has already been stated in these columns. To the number of fifty-three in all, they reached Beaufort on the 9th of March, 1862. We now quote Mr. Curwen's letter:—

This devoted band soon commenced their school, and their systematic organisation of labour upon the 189 plantations, and among the 9,050 people, of Port Royal Inlet. The negroes, distrustful and stubborn under the influence of Government agents, became plastic, hopeful, and obedient beneath the power of Christian kindness. Although the work of planting was commenced six weeks too late, some 8,000 acres of corn and other vegetables, and some 4,500 acres of cotton, were cultivated the same year. In the year following larger crops were produced, and the negroes had not only received the new idea of the security of wages, but

had acquired also something of the sentiment of ownership. For many of the lands had been sold, as I understood for the non-payment of taxes, and several rich men had purchased largely at these tax-sales, in order that they might subdivide and sell again at cost price to the negroes. Thus the negro's wages of one year became capital in the next. "As I was riding," says Mr. Pierce, "through one of Mr. Philbrick's fields one morning, I counted fifty persons at work who belonged to one plantation. This gentleman, who went out with the first delegation, and at the same time gave largely to the benevolent contributions for the enterprise, was the leading purchaser at the tax-sales, and combining, as he does, a fine humanity with honest sagacity and close calculation, no man is so well fitted to try the experiment. He bought thirteen plantations, and on these has planted and cultivated 816 acres of cotton, where 499 acres were cultivated last year—a larger increase, however, than will generally be found in other districts, due mainly to prompter payments."

The emancipated negroes are already becoming customers to the North—

In a recent communication from Boston, I have received a long list of articles purchased in the Boston market, to supply, at simply remunerative rates, the demands of the freedmen on Mr. Philbrick's plantation, at Port Royal. There is a great call among them for plates, knives, forks, tin-ware, and better clothing. Even fashion is asserting its reign among the dusky ladies of the Sea Island, and "hoop skirts" are mentioned as an article in demand on Mr. Philbrick's plantation!

Mr. Pierce gives a very interesting account of one of the many schools he visited:—

It was on Saint Helena Island, and contained a hundred and forty-five children. The elder children were already reading well, and arithmetic and geography were favourite studies. The poet Whittier, a friend of one of the teachers, has written a beautiful song for this school, which Mr. Pierce heard the children sing:—

The very oaks are greener clad,
The waters brighter smile;
Oh, never shone a day so glad
On sweet St. Helen's Isle!

For none in all the world before
Were ever glad as we,
We're free on Carolina's shore,
We're all at home and free!

They sang a number of other songs, but the favourite of all was the "John Brown" song, which is now known everywhere.

Mr. Pierce speaks very touchingly of his fellow-missionaries in this work, especially of those who have died under the weight of their labour. This energetic philanthropist and his companions were the pioneers in the work, but their example has already been followed in the forsaken plantations on the Lower Mississippi, and in those around New Orleans.

The United States Government is constantly making greater efforts to find food and clothes, and, above all, work for the freedman. But the duties of teaching, training, and guiding these children of a strange and new-born liberty, can only be safely performed by the hand of free benevolence. Will not Christian Englishmen stretch out the hand of brotherhood to these men and women of their own spirit across the Atlantic. A few have already done so. Three hundred pounds have been sent from England to the Boston Freedman's Education Commission. But two hundred pounds of this sum were contributed by only two men—men who bear the name of Buxton; and what is the remaining sum for the rest of Englishmen to give? I know it will be said that the United States Government must do the work. But when we had a famine in Ireland, a famine in India, and deep distress in Lancashire, English people did not wait for the slow action of Governments. "Then let the American people," says my objector, "prove themselves as quick and generous as the English were." They are doing so, my friend. Their great sanitary associations watch every field of battle to bring comforts and loving words to the sick and wounded of both armies. They raise funds for the suffering Unionists of East Tennessee, and find means of relief for thousands of white refugees in St. Louis! "Oh! well then, they are quite able to take care of the freedmen. Let every nation look to itself." America did not speak thus, my brother, in our distress last year. She did not say, "Let England take care of her own poor"; but sent us the George Griswold, and several other ships, laden with food for famishing Lancashire! Was not that an English thing to do? While these "friends of the freedmen" are working so wisely, so persistently, so devotedly, is it possible that you and I can stand looking on with jaundiced eye! No, never! I read my countrymen wrongly if this can be the case. Come, my brothers, let us prove our right to call ourselves anti-slavery Englishmen! Let us help the Freedman's Aid Society to gladden the hearts of these noble missionaries to the coloured race. We are just making up a second instalment. Every farthing will be wisely spent. It is pressingly needed. God is now plainly appearing for the coloured race. May not Englishmen, as well as devoted Americans, be, in Apostolic phrase, "co-workers with God"?

Cordially do we endorse this appeal.

Postscript.

Wednesday, February 3, 1864.

THE DANO-GERMAN WAR.

THE FIRST BLOODSHED.

The following official report has been addressed to the Minister of War by General de Meza:—

Feb. 1 (11 p.m.)

The enemy advanced in considerable force this forenoon against Eckernförde; whereupon the first division of our army took up a position on the Schlei, and occupied the works near Missunde.

2 a.m.

Nothing important has occurred during the night. The enemy's outposts are probably near the Sorg, and

Bistensö. A slight engagement took place between the Esbærnsnære and Thor and some Prussian batteries. Shots were exchanged, and the ships then went out to sea.

SCHLESWIG, Feb. 2 (9.30 p.m.)—This morning at ten o'clock the Germans drove the Danes from their outposts before the strong position of Missunde, and attacked Missunde itself, but were repulsed, and the Danes retook their positions. The engagement lasted six hours. The Danes had one officer killed and four wounded. One regiment and a-half of the Danish troops were engaged.

The following is the German version of the engagement:—

KIEL, Feb. 2 (9.15 p.m.)

A severe engagement, lasting three hours, took place this afternoon, near Missunde, on the Schlei. Troops of all arms were engaged, more especially artillery. The Danes were repulsed at the *Ulle-du-pont*.

KIEL, Feb. 1 (Evening).—The Prussians occupy the heights in the rear of Eckernförde. Duke Frederick of Augustenburg has been enthusiastically proclaimed by the people at Eckernförde.

PARIS, Feb. 2.—The *Constitutionnel* of this morning publishes an article signed by M. Paulin Limayrac, stating that in commencing hostilities on the Eider, the two great German Powers have taken the initiative in measures pregnant with perilous incidents, considering the pride and courage of the Danish people. *La France* of this evening says:—"England is said to have resolved to intervene actively in the Dano-German conflict. Her first act would be to occupy Copenhagen by British troops. This measure would probably displease the Danes as much as the Germans, and embitter the relations of England with Prussia and Austria."

ECKERNFÖRDE, Feb. 1.—Prince Frederick of Augustenburg has been proclaimed Duke of Schleswig-Holstein here to-day. The people are enthusiastic; Prussian troops fraternising. The frost continues.

HAMBURG, February 2.—The Prussian army intends to force a passage at Missunde, thus cutting the Danes off from the sea while the Austrians engage them in the centre. It is thought that if this plan succeeds the Danish army is lost.

OTHER CONTINENTAL NEWS.

TURIN, February 2.—The result of the elections is generally favourable to the moderate party. Garibaldi has not succeeded at Palermo, where Signor Robandi has been elected.

MUNICH, February 2.—The Bavarian Government has taken preliminary measures for the assembling a conference of Ministers of those States having the same views as this Government, in order to come to an understanding relative to the Schleswig-Holstein question. All the replies have not yet been received. The French Corps Législatif has been prorogued to the 4th of April.

An embargo is to be placed on all German shipping in Danish ports.

The law relative to the war tax was submitted to the Rigsdag (the Assembly for Denmark Proper) yesterday. It is expected that it will produce a revenue of from five to six million rigsdalers.

The *Fædrelandet* states that the mission to Stockholm of Mr. Kirkpatrick, the English Secretary of Legation at this Court, has for object to prevail upon Sweden to act in the Danish question only in common with England.

The ex-Duchess of Parma died on Monday at Venice.

The Princess of Wales was "churched" yesterday in her Majesty's private chapel, Windsor.

BRIGHTON ELECTION.—There was a stormy meeting at Brighton last night. Mr. Dumas proposed to deliver an address on the aspect of political affairs in the borough. Numbers of people responded to his call, but they utterly refused to hear him. After shouting for an hour the malcontents made a rush to the platform, demolished the reporters' table, broke up forms, and then indulged in a kind of war-dance. Mr. Dumas and his friends left the room as soon as they could. It is said in Brighton that the writ will be issued on Monday next.

THE MURDERER TOWNLEY DECLARED SANE.—A medical commission having examined the present condition of Townley, have declared him to be of sound mind. A letter from the Home Office to the Derby magistrates says—"that, taking all the circumstances of this case into consideration, her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would not be right that the capital sentence should now be carried into effect, but that it ought to be commuted to penal servitude for life. This course has therefore been taken, and the prisoner will be dealt with accordingly. I am to add that it is the intention of her Majesty's Government to propose an amendment of the Act under which the certificates of insanity in this case were given."

MARK-LANE.—THIS DAY.

Fresh up to our market, to-day, the arrivals of home-grown wheat were but moderate, and in consequence of the commencement of hostilities in Schleswig, factors were very firm in their demands. Millers were, however, indisposed to operate at any advance in prices, and very little business was transacted either in red and white qualities, at about Monday's currency. There was a fair show of foreign wheat on the stands. The trade was very firm, and all descriptions were held at enhanced currencies. Floating cargoes of grain ruled firm, and prices had an upward tendency. With barley, the market was moderately supplied. Malt descriptions sold steadily, at full currencies; but superior descriptions were in slow request, at late rates.

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The Nonconformist.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1864.

SUMMARY.

THE first blood in the Dano-German war, as we suppose it must now be phrased, was shed yesterday. The vanguard of the Prussian army was stopped at Missunde, on the south bank of the estuary of the Schlei, by a small Danish force, and after a six hours' engagement was repulsed in an assault on the works of that town. The Danes had one officer killed, and four wounded; the loss of the assailants is not stated. The apparent object of this movement was to cut off the Danes from the sea, while the Austrians attacked the centre of their position along the lines of the Dannewerk. The evident resolution of the Danes to defend this long line of defence, and the set in of a thaw which is likely to help them, point to an obstinate, if not a prolonged conflict for the possession of the Duchy of Schleswig, into which other European Powers may possibly be drawn, and the Treaty of 1852 torn to tatters.

Both France and Russia, however, which, equally with England, were parties to the Treaty of London, resolutely hold aloof from the strife, and deem their engagements fulfilled by the utterance of a solemn protest against the invasion of Schleswig. The attitude of our neighbour across the Channel, was indicated by M. Rouher in one of the recent debates, when he said that "France will undertake no foreign war without preliminary concert, except in cases in which her own boundaries or her own honour are concerned." It is said that our Government, probably with a view to localise this unhappy war, are endeavouring to persuade Sweden to act only in common with England.

After animated debates on Mexico and Poland, in which M. Thiers and other distinguished members of the Opposition again took a conspicuous part, the French Corps Législatif adopted the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne, and has been prorogued till April. In receiving the Address of his Legislature, the Emperor Napoleon, in a speech of great tact, vindicated the course he has pursued, and hinted at future concessions, in which he would take the initiative while the Legislature was engaged "in enlightening and controlling the progress of the Government." His Majesty admits that the debates of the last three months "have not been without utility," and with some mistrust of the issue appeals to the majority, "more compact" though not so numerous as before, to rally round the institutions of the country. The Imperial reply is another striking proof of the ability and sagacity of the French Sovereign.

The complexion of the Parliamentary Session which opens to-morrow will apparently depend upon the course of events in Northern Europe. Should the Dano-German war be of short duration, and not threaten to involve us, bills will be introduced for a 10th county and 6th borough franchise, which it is expected will receive the general support of the Liberal party. The *Leeds Mercury* considers it possible, not to say probable, that Ministers, whilst declining to bring forward the question of Reform themselves, may support it as individuals, and urges that the only chance of carrying these instalments of reform is by a general and unmistakable pressure from the constituencies. There is no doubt that the feeling in favour of reform has been gathering strength during the last few months; but what reason have we to believe that Lord Palmerston would not as heretofore play with the question, after the opinion of the country had been expressed at a general election?

We fear, however, that foreign affairs will, for a time at least, absorb the attention of our legislators, to the neglect of domestic questions. Mr. Disraeli will have full scope in the debate on the Address for assailing a policy which has alienated France, offended Germany, and produced no visible good results in any part of Europe during the recess. The *Times* ventures somewhat doubtfully to anticipate that the Session will not be a stormy one, and that Parliament, which exhibits "a tinge of senility," will try to stave off a dissolution; deprecates measures of "too great vigour and violence"; hints that Lord Palmerston, should the House of Commons prove unmanageable, would probably retire rather than appeal to the country; and winds up with the wise reservation—"At a time when so many dynasties and States are in peril, it would be presumptuous to rely too confidently on the duration of a Parliament or the stability of a Ministry."

The case of Townley, the murderer of Miss Goodwin, has at length been disposed of. The prevalent impression that the certificate of insanity, which obliged the Home Secretary to grant a respite, and consign the convict to a lunatic asylum, was unsupported by facts, has been fully justified. A medical commission has declared Townley to be of sound mind, and Sir George Grey announces that "Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would not be right that the capital sentence should now be carried into effect, but that it ought to be commuted to penal servitude for life." The decision will meet with general approval, but the entire case furnishes a strong argument for the entire abrogation of the death penalty.

The mail from China brings in one respect welcome intelligence. Mr. Lay, who has for several years filled the post of Inspector-General of Foreign Customs, and had become almost the master of the Imperial Government, has been dismissed. On the capture of Souchow by Major Gordon, his Imperialist allies commenced a wholesale massacre of the population, which was only stayed by that officer turning his arms against the cruel barbarians. It is said that the disgusted major will retire from the Imperial service, and that a consular notification will be issued strictly prohibiting all British subjects from engaging their services either to Imperialist or Taeping. We trust that this report will turn out to be correct, and that, henceforth, the Chinese will be left to settle their own quarrels without our interference.

THE INVASION OF DENMARK.

THE line of the Eider has been passed by the Austro-Prussian troops. The Danish Commander-in-Chief, General de Meza, received the summons of Field-Marshal Wrangel to evacuate the Duchy of Schleswig, on Saturday probably, and on Sunday night the Prussians crossed the boundary at Kiel, the Austrians at Rendsburg. There has been no declaration of war. A portion of unquestionably Danish territory has been invaded by the German Powers, that they may clear it of Danish troops, and hold the province as a "material guarantee," to what end, we suppose, will hereafter appear. Certainly, no time has been lost. Part of the Prussian army came in contact with the Danes at Missunde, and endeavoured to take their defensive works by storm. An engagement lasting six hours ensued, leaving the Danes masters, for the present, of their position. Their precipitation is, no doubt, due to the expectation that they will be most effectually aided by King Frost, and that before Denmark can receive assistance from other Powers, the work will have been done, and the impatience of Germany will have been soothed, and the issue of the quarrel conformed to the policy for which Austria and Prussia have resorted to force.

It is useless to waste words in indignation at this infatuated act—equally useless, at this moment, to reiterate the considerations which convict the German Powers of a studied disregard of international usages, if not of international right. The deed is done. Austria and Prussia are in Denmark, to enforce their will. They give the most solemn assurances that they are there merely to obtain security for the performance of stipulations made by the Danish Government in 1851, but subsequently evaded, and that they have no intention of violating the territorial integrity of Denmark. We believe they are guilty of a palpable wrong. We are uncertain how far they may be able to redeem their promises—but, whatever the intensity of our disapprobation with the course they have pursued, we see nothing to be gained by allowing appeals to our passions to goad us into a state of mind which might unfit us for the exercise of the calmest reason.

In the first place, it behoves us to realise to

our own apprehension, as fully as we are able to do, the probable motives of the aggressors. Nothing is easier, and, we may add, nothing is more mischievous, than fierce declamations against the Powers whose recent conduct alienates from them our good wishes and sympathies. They have done what we cannot but condemn—but they are not therefore to be denounced as though they had no case whatever to urge in their own behalf. It must be borne in mind that the Danish Government and people have not been wholly in the right—that they have provokingly pursued a policy which they engaged, at the close of the last Dano-German war, they would abstain from pursuing—and that the original demands made by the Confederation upon Denmark were warranted by her own disregard of treaty stipulations. We have to take into account that when a majority of the Federal Diet showed a strong disposition to set aside the succession guaranteed by the Treaty of London, and to wrench the Duchy of Schleswig from the Kingdom of Denmark, Austria and Prussia, in direct opposition to the popular will of Germany, took the affair into their own hands, ostensibly for the purpose of keeping faith with their co-signatories. It is worthy of remark that they thereby placed themselves in relations of some peril to their own subjects, as well as to the majority of the Federal Diet. And it may have appeared to them that having thus stepped between Denmark and her excited foes, they had incapacitated themselves from treating the former with all the international formalities which might otherwise have been observed. If, after waiting at the request of the Danish Government, six weeks or two months for the decision of the Rigsraad, that assembly had refused to withdraw the November Constitution, and if, meanwhile, the Danes had completed their defensive works, formed powerful alliances, and seen all further chance of frost depart for the year, Austria and Prussia would have had to face a danger to which none arising from precipitation could be compared. They may have persuaded themselves that, having braved the wrath of the German people to make good their own engagements as European Powers, they were entitled to shield themselves from the possibility of eventual mortification and ruin, even at the expense of customary formalities, and that a swift and unswerving execution in Schleswig was the only course consistent with their own safety, and, perhaps, in the end, the most favourable course for Denmark herself. We do not adopt this line of reasoning. We do not say that it absolves the two German Powers from blame—but we do say that it is conceivable they may have been actuated by these motives without laying themselves open to charges which would point them out as the common enemies of mankind.

Supposing the wrong, however, to be far less excusable than it probably appears to the judgment of Austria and Prussia, the practical question presents itself how far we are bound, and by what means we are able, to set it right. Must we consult our national honour, or shall we probably do a good turn to Denmark or to Europe, by going to war with the invading Powers? As to our honour, we are no more bound to vindicate it by arms in this quarrel, than France or Russia, who both decline to interfere. The treaty of 1852 is a piece of Lord Palmerston's diplomatic work, achieved on his own responsibility, though subsequently sanctioned by the silent acquiescence of Parliament. All that England is pledged by that treaty to do, England has already done. She did not engage to defend the succession of Christian IX. by force of arms, nor to guarantee against all foreign encroachment the territorial integrity of Denmark. It is not a case of "*la noblesse oblige*." Nor are we sure that thoughtful generosity would prompt us to lend our armed assistance to the Danes. We might, indeed, punish her foes, but it is doubtful whether we should not do so at her expense. So long as Austria and Prussia are left to take their own course, so long they are held fast to their professions of good faith towards Europe, and moderation towards Denmark. But let us declare war against them, and they will instantly consider themselves released from all their promises. To conquer Schleswig, and annex it to the German Confederation, will then become their avowed design, and the whole enthusiasm and military force of Germany will be forthwith placed at their disposal. In such case, it is not at all certain that France would go with us. It is just possible that she might decide to take part against us—and should the day arrive at which England's power is plainly overmatched, all the States of Europe, with insignificant exceptions, would gladly combine to ruin our prestige, and to humble our somewhat arrogant pretensions.

But this is not all. Since honour does not compel us to interfere, and Denmark would be rather injured than relieved by our assistance,

we may fairly take the interests of our own countrymen into consideration. The *Manchester Examiner* has put this side of the question so forcibly, that we gladly avail ourselves of its words:—"Are the merchants of this country prepared to go to war? Are they ready to see their commerce exposed to the depredations of privateers? Can we, with two millions of our people dependent for their bread upon foreign supplies, venture upon this risk? As the Alabama stole out of Liverpool, so we may be sure Alabamas will steal out of American ports, hoist a belligerent flag, and pay us back in our own coin. It is a question, not of fear, but of prudence. Are we willing to incur the cost? If we are, why, of course, we may go at it at once, hammer and tongs, rifled-cannon and income-tax, cotton famine and mercantile paralysis, glory and going to the dogs. If not, let us say so, and help to strengthen our representatives in resisting the policy of a reckless statesman, who will probably not live to see the end of the mischief he is fomenting."

And now, we rejoice in being able to believe that the preponderant judgment of the Cabinet is against our intervention. Lord Palmerston may be anxious to save his own diplomatic handiwork at any and every risk—but unless Parliament shall evince the same anxiety tomorrow, there is no probability at present of our being plunged into a European war, for an object not worth the effusion of a single drop of blood. Our hope is that Parliament will incur no such tremendous responsibility, not even in deference to the known wishes of Lord Palmerston. But we will not anticipate what before we again come before our readers will have reached the maturity of a national decision.

MR. BRIGHT AT BIRMINGHAM.

WHATEVER may be urged against Mr. Bright's political opinions and sympathies, there are few if any public men in this country whose style of oratory so thoroughly typifies the genuine Englishman. His rhetorical qualities are associated with strength rather than elegance, with the compactness of a well-developed system rather than with gigantic proportions, with intensity of conviction rather than with breadth of view. He is not indifferent to the good opinion of others, but he scorns to gain it at the expense of his self-respect. He is calm in his temperament, but he loves a fight—good-humoured, but he hits hard—generous in his disposition, but a good hater, though of things far more than of persons. He has passion, but he never lets it get the mastery of his will. He seems to put out his strength without stint, but he always keeps back a powerful reserve of it. He eyes his antagonists with a wary vigilance, but without the least consciousness of fear, notes their weak points and waits the moment when they are uncovered, and then delivers blow upon blow right home with merciless severity. His grand common sense, for the time being at least, carries down all before it. Critics may sneer at him—journalists may disparage him—genteel society may vote him vulgar—but his power and position are attested by the fact that whenever he speaks to the public the electric telegraph conveys every sentence that he utters to the London press, "regardless of expense," and every educated Englishman reads with an admiration that almost silences his prejudices, what he has spoken.

The three speeches delivered by Mr. Bright at Birmingham last week may be regarded as its distinctive feature so far at least as the public affairs of our own country are concerned. That to his constituents in the Town Hall was as striking a display of his power as any we can call to mind—that to the Chamber of Commerce of his practical and business-like judgment—and that at the *soirée*, of the readiness with which he can discourse sensibly and pleasantly on the spur of the occasion. In the first, he grapples with adversaries—in the second, he offers advice to men of commerce on certain matters affecting the successful conduct of it—in the third, he entertains his friends—and we hardly know in which he was most successful. The main characteristic of all three is their masculine robustness, equally conspicuous in antagonism, in counsel, and in unpremeditated self-exercise. At any rate, it must be admitted that Mr. Bright, during his brief visit to his constituents, laid before them and the country large masses, if we may so say, of thought well worth serious examination.

It is to this feature of his speeches, rather than to the special topics with which they deal, that we wish to call the attention of our readers. It is immaterial to the object we have in view whether the political opinions broached by Mr. Bright are or are not perfectly sound and trustworthy, or whether the precise forms in which he has introduced them to the public are or are not the best fitted to commend them to general

acceptance. We are not sure that the benefits he is conferring upon his fellow-countrymen could be conferred to the same extent by a more prudential and persuasive speaker. The hon. member for Birmingham, somewhat roughly, at times, puts his finger upon the seat of this or the other disease, the symptoms of which, apart from their causes, everybody is ready to discuss. He may be right or wrong in his diagnosis—but at least he diverts attention from details to principles, and starts a problem for subsequent investigation and solution which needs to be disposed of, one way or another, before much progress can be made—a problem, moreover, which the political conventionalism of English society is always ready to keep in the background. Questions of national interest usually assume another aspect than that which is common, after having passed through Mr. Bright's treatment—and every pen in the empire is instantly set to work to prove the value or the worthlessness of the view he has propounded.

Take, as an illustration, the unspeakably important subject on which the *Times*, with all its train of satellites, and the hon. member have come into sharp collision—the laws relating to the tenure of land, and the condition of the peasant labourers. It is an incontrovertible fact that the proprietors of the soil are becoming fewer and fewer year by year—it is also a fact that the condition of the class by the members of which the soil is actually tilled is as unprogressive as it is wretched. Mr. Bright puts these two facts together. He maintains that the diminution of the numbers of landowners is increased by the operation of existing laws—and he suggests that were representative power shared by the peasantry, the tendency of legislation would be the other way. His general position amounts to this—that if land were dealt with as stock, shares, ships, and the commodities of trade are dealt with, all the parties whose interest is associated with the soil would be better off—owners, tenants, and labourers. He attributes the exceptional laws relating to the holding and the sale of land, to the disproportionate share of political power conceded by the constitution to the landowning class—and he calls for an amendment of our representative system as the first practical step to be taken towards a better state of things. Now, what we say is this—that the whole subject is one which deserves far more serious attention than has yet been bestowed upon it. It required unearthing—it is imperative that it should be exposed to the light. Minor politicians avoided it because it was tabooed. Mr. Bright has elicited a scream of horror because he has dared to touch the question, and because he has handled it with as little ceremony as he formerly did the protective system. His moral courage ought to commend him to the gratitude of all Englishmen who desire to see the laws and institutions of the country based upon sound principles.

It is not a creditable trait of character to help in snarling down a public man like Mr. Bright. He does for us what few public men of the present day venture even to attempt—freshens public thought, and saves it from stagnation. The full worth of his services, perhaps, will not be appreciated until they have ceased to be available—but the next generation will probably envy the present in nothing more than this—that it numbered among its patriots such men as John Bright and Richard Cobden—men who had something to say touching the interests of the country, and who said it honestly as well as ably.

THE SANTIAGO TRAGEDY.

THE Spanish American Republics comprise a population who are the willing victims of a fanaticism and superstition scarcely credible in this age, and the ignorant dupes of an inferior body of priests who are continually swarming over from Catholic Europe. In Chili particularly, the monks, friars, and Sisters of Charity form an ecclesiastical corporation which is able to overawe the Government, exclude even the semblance of toleration, and reign undisputed over an excitable and degraded people. In Santiago, the capital, ecclesiastics swarm, "an" it were the patrimony of St. Peter's. There is one priest for every forty souls; and here, if anywhere on earth, Romanism of the most extravagant type rules without a rival, and has been allowed without hindrance its fullest development. "Religion has among us," says one of the Chili newspapers, "been turned into an intoxicating mania, new-fangled mummeries have replaced Christian worship, and thanks to the seductions of one species of fanaticism, fanned by others, the religious world crowds with a kind of frenzy to those performances, the splendour of which is estimated by the multitude of lights—that is to say, the multitude of perils accumulated every night."

It was amongst this people, and in their chief

city, where "the church bells are ringing from morning to night," and where "from the earliest dawn sometimes until midnight, devotees are seen, in their church dresses, passing with demure countenances along the streets," a catastrophe has happened which, in its accumulated horrors, transcends almost any tragedy recorded in history. Every evening during the month preceding the 8th of December, the churches were illuminated, and the scenes of imposing ceremonies and theatrical mummeries to which all the female population crowded, in honour of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin. The priests of the various temples rivalled each other in their efforts to produce the most brilliant and exciting spectacles with the accompaniment of music and incense; but the Church of the Jesuits, wherein officiated a priest named Ugarte, chaplain of the "Daughters of Mary," among whom were enrolled almost all the women of Santiago, carried away the palm. Reserving his greatest effects for the 8th of December, the last day of the festival, the church was a blaze of splendour. Every corner of the building, from the ground to the ceiling, and especially about the altar, was a sea of muslin and drapery, flooded with every variety of illumination from some 20,000 camphine lamps.

On that memorable evening the church was packed with nearly 3,000 persons, chiefly women, and comprising the flower of the fair population of Santiago, and hundreds were gathered outside to hear the music or catch a few stray words from the preacher, none other than Eizaguirre, the Apostolic Nuncio, and favourite of Pius IX. The dense mass of people is scarcely seated or kneeling in a state of anxious suspense, when an accident happens to the crescent of lights at the foot of the gigantic image of the Virgin. The overhanging draperies take fire, the flames shoot upwards to the dome, run along the combustible muslin hangings, and in a few moments the wooden roof is a cloud of fire, and the whole interior in a blaze. Most of the men, separated from the women by an iron grating, succeed in escaping, and others near the entrance get away, but the remainder of the congregation, panic-stricken, rush in terror to the only large door available—the others being closed—and there they fall upon each other in a momentarily-deepening pile of terrified humanity, forming a "complete wedge" which blocks up the doorway and makes escape impossible. Within a few yards help was at hand, but not available. The church had become a furnace, and the fire rained down from above and consumed those who had not died of suffocation. We spare our readers the ghastly details of this most horrible burnt sacrifice. It is pithily summed up in a single sentence by a writer on the spot:—"Two thousand victims sacrificed in a quarter of an hour, in a small enclosure sixty yards by thirty!"

We do not read that a single priest suffered in person from this sudden conflagration, nor indeed that any one of them moved a finger to save the victims of their fanaticism. Secure of escape themselves, they are said to have blocked up the doors of the sacristy, to devote themselves the more undisturbedly to saving their gimcracks, and then fled. "The list of things saved," says one writer, "makes one's blood run cold. What the priests saved, what they have put away in cigar-shops and the houses in front, are—a gilt image, some wooden saints, a sacred sofa or two, some books, chalices, silver candlesticks, and a great deal of sacred matting and carpet!" The stock-in-trade of this wretched craft and imposture was of more value than the precious lives of the fair victims. But the crowning infamy of this revolting exhibition was the congratulations offered by Ugarte to the poor creatures writhing in their last agony, that they died happy, "because they went direct to Mary." Such a display of priestly selfishness and heartlessness would, it might have been thought, never have been forgotten by the decimated and mourning population of Santiago, but a little more than a week later it is reported that "still the churches are lighted up and crowded, and the probability is that even this severe lesson will fail to prove efficacious in checking the influence of the wildest class of the priesthood, or in diminishing the superstition of this people."

The intoxicating sensation spectacles, which in Santiago have reached a culminating point in this frightful catastrophe, are only an exaggeration of what periodically happens in Rome itself, when the Pope visits St. Peter's surrounded by guards, amid clouds of incense, brilliant illuminations, and the crash of opera music. But we see in the calamity which has occurred in Chili to what disastrous consequences the indulgence of this theatrical excitement in the name of religion may lead. We look in vain in the conduct of the priests of Santiago, or the bearing of their deluded victims, for the signs of those qualities which are the fruits

of true and fervent piety. It was Americans—men professing an heretical faith which is absolutely proscribed in Chili—who alone showed a heroism befitting the occasion, and carried out the precepts of Christianity. These poor ignorant Spanish Americans have shut out the light which would alone control and tone down misdirected fanaticism and curb the audacity of priestly mountebanks. And though they have justly turned against the authors of the tragedy in the Church of the Jesuits, they do not seem yet to have taken the right means to check the injurious excesses that corrupt the public mind, and endanger life.

The frightful calamity at Santiago has very seasonably called to mind the necessity for improving the arrangements for the egress of crowds from our public buildings in case of sudden alarm. It is true that nowhere in this country would the storing up of so many combustible materials in any place of public resort, as was the case in Santiago, be attempted, or permitted. Our pyrotechnic displays are happily reserved for the open air. But few of our public buildings, such as places of worship and the theatres, are adequately provided with means of egress. A sudden panic in Exeter Hall might issue in the choking up of the narrow lobbies and staircases with heaps of terrified fugitives, after the example of the Jesuit church in Chili. Yet little is done to improve the approaches to our public buildings, and, as the *Globe* says—"the recklessness of the public in these matters is little less than sublime."

RAGGED-SCHOOLS AND THE LONDON POOR.

AMONG the many public charities and philanthropic institutions which have had their claims severally urged upon the liberality of the English public, there are perhaps none more deserving of support than those which are more or less associated, either in their origination, their maintenance, or their advocacy, with the Earl of Shaftesbury. Or lest that should be too vague and general an assertion, we would limit its application to the Ragged-schools, Refuges, Shoe-black brigades, and other similar organisations which exist in our metropolis, and of these we can confidently say that there are no agencies so effectual in the conversion of unkempt, mischievous boys and girls into honest and hard-working little labourers. The police-magistrates and the police-officers combine in testifying to the happy results of Ragged-school instruction, while, to quote Lord Shaftesbury's own words, the Ragged-school Union can refer to "the thousands we have placed in trade and domestic service whose conduct both justifies and repays the care their friends have bestowed upon them." It was to strengthen the hands and infuse fresh life and energy into the hearts of those who are now toiling and even agonising in this service that the noble lord made a public appeal a few weeks ago, through the medium of the daily and weekly press, and which was responded to within a fortnight to the extent of 1,700*l*.

Without constituting ourselves almoners to the Union, or to any of the institutions of which we may from time to time have a word to say, it is not too much to hope that some encouragement may be given by our notice to those who are already busy with brains and hands, their reward being in the improvement visible from day to day in the appearance and demeanour of their little pupils.

There are now * connected with the Ragged-school Union 180 Sunday-schools, 201 day-schools, and 205 week night schools. The average number of children attending these schools is 27,000. The industrial scholars number 2,849, and the voluntary teachers 2,695. The average number of parents attending the mothers' meetings, 2,659, and the attendance at the ragged-church services, 5,463. Various schemes are devised for the amelioration of the condition of the poor; in some districts more, in some less, efficient. But in all there is ample scope for Christian enterprise. No individual exertion is despised or thwarted. Thus, in an account of one of the schools we read of an infant nursery, an infant-school, a juvenile school for boys and girls, a mothers' meeting, a Lying-in Society, a Christian Provident Benefit Society, a Female Benefit Society, and a Penny bank. Each of these schemes represents thoroughly-organised local effort. Indeed, it is difficult to imagine that such effort should fail to follow, where the preliminary work of instruction to the young is carried on with so much success. Here we have evidence of the co-operation of parents, teachers, and children. The mothers leave their

babies in the nursery, and go out to work; the elder children are out of mischief at school; the men put by their earnings against a rainy day, and from among their own number choose a committee to manage the affairs of the Christian Provident Benefit Society. Taking another district, we read of a girls' school, infant-school, Sabbath-school, Bible-class for working men and women, evening service, weekly prayer-meeting, mothers' meeting, clothing club, and penny bank; in the latter, the number of depositors being 2,690; and so the story is varied in one district and another; the success of the numerous efforts depending upon the extent of local enterprise which exists to work out those already initiated by the Union.

We had meant to advert somewhat more at length than we can do now to the Night Refuges and Ragged-schools in Field-lane. They are spoken of in detail in Mr. Blanchard Jerrold's useful work, "Signals of Distress," and we again warmly commend that book to those who wish to acquaint themselves more thoroughly with the lower ranks of "London society." The refuges are provided for men and women seeking employment. There are two separate departments for the two sexes. In each, cleanliness, light, and ventilation are the prominent features. There is no attempt made to render them unduly attractive. Food and shelter for a week is offered to honest poverty; in the daytime the inmates go in search of employment, returning in the evening for instruction and shelter. This is pre-eminently, we believe, Lord Shaftesbury's protégé, and it has now risen to the dignity of an important institution, being supported by an independent body of contributors. The funds for its support, received and acknowledged by the *Times*, during the severe winter season amounted to about 1,500*l*.

So far as to those who have worked, and who do work. What can be done to bring more workers into the field? The committee of the Ragged-school Union say in their report:—

The fact is, the thousands that are yearly added to London's population of the lower class by births and fresh arrivals from the country, are enough to appal any one; and unless ragged-schools are multiplied year by year in proportion to that increase, there must ever be vast numbers of the ragged class uncared for and neglected in our streets. The means at command, too, are diminished rather than increased by the practice of so many persons of position and substance living at a distance from the bustling and crowded locality where their place of business is, and thus taking less interest in local efforts such as ragged-schools.

It may be hoped that the "persons of position and substance" do not altogether neglect the cause of the poor in their suburban retirement, but we strongly suspect that while some London churches are well-nigh overwhelmed with the want and misery around them, there are worshipping communities within a radius of twelve miles of the metropolis who have no poor to care for. To such we would say, Try a few committee meetings upon the subject, and think over it earnestly. This is merely a suggestion; it may be of little worth, it may be one carrying weighty reasons for its adoption: at any rate it is worthy of consideration, and there we leave it.

GRUMBLING.

ALL dogs exhibit, when chained up, an undercurrent of growling displeasure. In degree of intensity it may vary from a whine of impatience to a furious struggle to break loose, and to inflict canine vengeance upon the first stranger within reach. In like manner, the human will, when under restraint, or conscious of inability to give effect to its own choice, brings into active exercise a disposition more or less strong to vent its sense of wrong in the practice of grumbling, not necessarily directed against the cause of the dissatisfaction, and not often limited to that cause, but indulging itself wherever it can best find or make an occasion. Grumbling as a specific act aiming at the removal of a specific evil is legitimate enough. It is a natural protest against real or supposed injustice, which, like the cry of pain, calls attention to suffering which might otherwise remain not only unnoticed, but unsuspected. A definite grumble extorted by a definite wrong is a sort of appeal either to the doer of the wrong for a reversal of judgment, or to bystanders for encouragement and aid in resisting it if possible, or for sympathy in enduring it if necessary. Grumbling is one of the proper functions of humanity, and it is our duty, not wholly to suppress it, but to restrict it to the right objects, times, degrees, and persons.

Between an act of grumbling, however, which may and may not be justifiable, and a grumbling habit, the difference is very wide, and it is to the

latter that the following observations are meant to apply. A hearty grumble at something believed to call for it, is the letting off by a safety-valve the wrath which might otherwise accumulate beyond the power of suppression, and dangerously explode. A man is all the better for having got rid, by a comparatively harmless process, of what he cannot wholly master, but what, unless allowed to escape, may possibly master him. But grumbling as the result of habit or disposition, is a miasma exhaled from a neglected, or perhaps an originally unfavourable soil. It is a product and proof of dissatisfaction, but is no remedy for it. It does nothing towards setting right that which is wrong, but it simply poisons the neighbouring social atmosphere. The swampy soul that sends up its baneful mists, redolent of all the feculence and bitterness which covers its surface, gains no advantage, from this continuous giving off of its impurities. Its own discomfort is renewed by passing events, as the morass is replenished with moisture by every shower—and nothing but the deep draining of a sharp Providential discipline, or the action upon it of a genial faith, can effectually cure the evil.

When grumbling has become a habit, any object will serve to wake it into activity. It is not always equally on the look-out for self-indulgence, nor is it always equally morose. An east wind, especially if it lasts above a week, is a powerfully exciting cause of grumbling. We had almost said it is an excusing cause. It seems to dry up the milk of human kindness even in those who have it in superfluity. It withers all geniality of disposition down to its roots. During a long east wind we are all grumblers. Perhaps it affects the spleen, or irritates the liver, or turns the nervous fluid acid. At any rate, it has a marvellously uncomfortable effect upon the temper. A biting spring turns us into a nation of grumblers. It makes even Parliament savage, and hostile votes are given, and Ministries turned out, in the vindictiveness excited by a nipping east wind. The "best regulated families" are temporarily upset by the same cause. The most considerate creditors grow harsh. The most high-minded and honourable debtors become fractious and obstructive. Litigation is at a premium. The public press is captious, unjust, cruel. The pulpit gets metaphysical, and sometimes verges towards acrimony. The pews, however, take ample revenge. There is grumbling everywhere until the wind changes—a short, snappish, spasmodic grumbling. Nothing goes right. There is grit in the machinery, and no hope that affairs will proceed smoothly again until the atmospheric current sets in from another quarter. We must make allowance for grumbling at such times.

There are some persons whose derangement of health is equivalent to a perpetual east wind. They claim a larger share of our pity than our blame. It is not so much that they suffer physical pain, for, in that case, we are grieved rather than irritated by their habit of grumbling. But, unquestionably, physical disturbance does sometimes, without any accompaniment of positive and perceptible suffering, tell most fearfully upon the placidity of the temper, and the miserable victim sees everything through a darkening or distorting medium. When the cause has been clearly ascertained to be a bodily one, nothing remains to the friends of the sufferer but patience. Perhaps self-restraint may not be exercised to the degree which is possible, and may fairly be expected—but a perpetually operating morbid influence is an adversary which it is difficult for even a strong will to resist, much more a will impaired by organic or functional derangement. They who have never had experience of the extent to which some physical ailments can curdle the sweetest temper, are apt enough to suspect that a little more vigilance might succeed in keeping off the grumbling fit. And so it might—but lack of vigilance is part of the disease. We may fairly blame it in ourselves—we shall perhaps do best to excuse it in others, and try to get as accustomed to their grumbling, and to be as unconcerned by it, so far at least as our own comfort is concerned, as some of us are obliged to be in regard to the creaking of a rusty cowl on the chimney-top which grates harsh sounds into our ears with every breeze that blows.

The habit of grumbling, however, is more usually due to moral, than to physical causes. Nine times out of ten it draws its sustenance from dissatisfaction with oneself. Discord within—discord between the judgment and the passions—the loss of self-mastery, and, as the inevitable consequence, of self-respect—commonly exhibit themselves to those without, in the form of grumbling. Men seldom wield the lash upon themselves—they like to punish vicariously the rebels in their own bosoms, by whom law is set at defiance. For example: here is an individual who spends in the

* Report for 1863.

billiard-room many hours of the day which is urgently required by his business, and, of course, goes home out of humour with himself for his folly. What does he do when he gets there? Does he resolutely take himself to task, or, by increased self-sacrifice, try to make some compensation for the wrong? Not at all. He flings his discontent at his wife, or his children, or his neighbours, or his circumstances, or anybody or anything which he can convert into a butt for the shafts of his ill-humour. Your general grumblers may be unerringly set down as persons vexed by internal dissensions, and too irresolute to put them down. A man whom nothing pleases, is a man ill-pleased with himself. His everlasting grumbling is the involuntary protest made by his inner self against habitual misrule.

Occasionally, disappointed egotism breaks out into the habit of grumbling. Some people cherish throughout the earlier period of their lives, the most extravagant estimate of their abilities, and the most flattering dreams of their destiny. Often, too, they let their expectations give frequent holiday to their powers, and are confident of reaching distinction by a royal road in which diligence and perseverance may be dispensed with. And they begin to regard themselves as injured men who have a right to be angry, because society does not recognise their worth even before they have done anything to prove it. They get soured because the world refuses to take them at their own appraisal. They persuade themselves that they are martyrs, and they fly to grumbling as a kind of justifiable revenge. Nothing is as it should be. Things never happen as they ought to do. Luck outruns merit. The world is out of sorts—at sixes and sevens. Where is virtue? What is disinterestedness? There is no such thing. Purity of motive! Don't mention it—"old birds are not caught with chaff." And so the grumbling goes on to the end of the chapter, showing itself to all who have the least insight into character as nothing more nor less than the querulousness of mortified self-conceit.

There is no external cure for the habit of grumbling. Give a man wealth, honour, friends, power, smooth his daily path, lift him into eminence, show him all that he desires to see—still, if he be not at peace with himself, he will remain to the end a grumbler, and will look to the shady rather than to the sunny side of things. There was a man once—a true nobleman—who said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content," and he was able to say so without exaggeration because he had thoroughly merged his self-will in that of the Supreme. Grumbling is, to the extent to which it becomes habitual, a sign that we are out of harmony with the aspirations of our nature, and with the conditions of our lot. The only change which will effectually cure it is the change which puts us into our true orbit, and reconciles us to all things by reconciling us to the government of Him who has all things under His control. True and constant devotion to Him is peace in the conscience and joy in the heart, and where these are, grumbling cannot find a home.

Foreign and Colonial.

DENMARK AND GERMANY.

ENTRY OF THE PRUSSIAN AND AUSTRIAN TROOPS INTO SCHLESWIG.

On Sunday morning Marshal Wrangel summoned General de Meza to evacuate Schleswig, giving him till five o'clock in the afternoon to reply. General de Meza answered that he had orders to defend Schleswig. At midnight of Sunday, the Germans crossed the frontier at various points, in the direction of Gottorp and Eckernförde. The Danes destroyed the bridges. The Kronenwerk at Rendsburg was abandoned by them after a slight skirmish of outposts, in which no one was wounded. On Monday evening the head-quarters of Field-Marshal Wrangel, who was accompanied by the Royal Princes, Prince Frederick Charles and the Crown Prince of Prussia, were already at Gettorf, north of that work. During the day the entire Austro-Prussian cavalry was passing through Rendsburg. The Danish hussar pickets, posted at the canal sluice bridge, fired upon the advancing cavalry. The Danes withdrew behind the line of the Sarg, three miles north of Rendsburg, after having having blown up the bridge over that river and destroyed the railway.

On Monday the thermometer was 5 deg. below freezing-point.

The Prussians entered Eckernförde at noon on Monday, the Danish troops retiring on their approach. The Danish ships lying off Eckernförde, after exchanging some cannon-shots with the Prussians, sailed away.

Duke Frederick of Augustenburg had been proclaimed at Eckernförde and Gettorf.

An order announces that the Austrian and Prussian forces are to bear the name of the Schleswig-Holstein army, and to wear a white band on the arm.

Large masses of German troops continued to press on northwards. (On the 29th, 10,000 Prussian guards passed through Hamburg.)

On Monday, King Christian, accompanied by Bishop Monrad, the President of the Council, left to join the army at midnight. Large crowds assembled at the railway-station to witness the King's departure. His Majesty was continuously and enthusiastically cheered.

A telegram from Copenhagen, says "that the troops are eager for battle and enthusiastic."

On Monday a provisional law was published at Copenhagen, enabling the accelerated assembly of the Rigsraad. A Royal Patent was issued at the same time ordering the elections to the Rigsraad. The postal and telegraphic communication with Germany was broken off.

The Danish Government will bring before the Rigsdag a bill proposing to levy a war tax of about 3½ per cent. upon incomes.

The Government placed a steamer at the disposal of the Prussian and Austrian Ambassadors, by which they left Copenhagen on Monday, and reached Kiel in the afternoon.

A full report has been published of the speech of Bishop Monrad, the President of the Council, at the Landsting (Upper House of the Danish Rigsdag) on the 25th ult. The bishop admits that Denmark had not fulfilled the arrangements of 1851-2, but the fault lay with the Confederation which had forced Holstein from its connection with the other portions of the monarchy. It was quite understood that the Germanic Confederation would confine itself strictly within the limits of its territorial competence. The question might therefore arise, how far the agreements may be regarded as binding upon us.

This is the specially-vital political question of the day—how far we, for our parts, are forced to regard these agreements as binding. I admit that they contain certain obligations for the Danish Government, upon which I need not now dilate; but I maintain that they also contain certain rights for the Danish Government, viz., that no such State as Schleswig-Holstein shall exist. When, therefore, an hon. member expressed his conviction that the German Governments intend to create a State of Schleswig-Holstein, I reply that our best safeguards against such a course are the agreements of 1851-52. For, although they contain certain obligations binding upon us, they include at the same time a strong protection against the establishment of a Schleswig-Holstein State. In the present position of political affairs, therefore, his Majesty's Government recognises the agreements of 1851-52 in their full extent, in regard to the obligations they entail and the rights they confer, for the two things, rights and duties, hang together. It is impossible to release ourselves from the one without giving up the other.

He could not tell what settlements might follow if war broke out—

Not even a powerful nation can say at the commencement of a war what settlement the result will render necessary, and just prior to the outbreak of hostilities it would be only empty words and hollow phrases to declare, "Such or such is the programme for which we fight." The programme, I maintain, which we have to follow, simply, clearly, and without evasion, is this: not to allow a single German soldier to pass the Eider without offering the best resistance in our power, and to use every effort to expel from Schleswig all who shall venture to intrude.

It is said in Germany (by no means for the first time) that an alliance has been concluded between Sweden and Denmark. If the German Powers refuse to grant the delay of six weeks demanded by Denmark, Sweden will place 35,000 auxiliary troops in the field.

Sweden has protested at Vienna and Berlin against the decision of the two great German Powers to occupy Schleswig.

The Swedish officers who had asked permission to take service in Denmark have been refused by the Government on the ground that Sweden herself required them.

The King and Royal family of Sweden have given a considerable sum of money to the fund for the support of the families of Danish soldiers.

The Prussian and Austrian ambassadors are said to have stated to M. Drouyn de Lhuys that Prussia and Austria do not intend to attack the integrity of the Danish monarchy. They only desire to obtain a pledge to compel Denmark to carry out her engagements of 1852. Similar declarations are stated to have been made to the Cabinet of St. James's.

A telegram from Berlin thus adverts to the efforts of England to avert war:—

Confirmation has been received here of the statement that England's efforts to induce France to take a mutual step have hitherto proved abortive. The Emperor Napoleon, it appears, is not disposed to commit himself by any decided expression of opinion in favour of the London Treaty, and his ambassadors here and in Vienna have seemingly received directions to offer feeble support to the proposition for six weeks' delay—such as, in fact, amounts to offering none at all. England, however, is said to be pursuing her endeavours to engage Russia and Sweden at any rate, failing France, to more decided support of the integrity of Denmark, accompanying, as one of the Berlin papers observes, "her recommendation with general warnings and vague threats."

In reference to the pressure brought to bear on the two great German Powers, the *Nord Deutsche Zeitung* of Berlin says:—

Austria and Prussia will not abandon their just demands. England will reap the fruits of the policy she has pursued for the last thirty-five years. The England of former times no longer exists. The

personal union with the Duchies required of Denmark as a guarantee may perhaps no longer be sufficient after a rupture has taken place.

A telegram was received on the 27th by the municipal authorities of Rendsburg from the "Ducal Government" at Kiel, giving notice of a requisition from the Field-Marshal Commander-in Chief of the Prussian army of occupation now on its march to Schleswig, to fit up immediately a military hospital for a thousand men.

FRANCE.

THE DEBATES ON THE ADDRESS.

In the Corps Législatif on Wednesday M. Thiers in a long speech explained the amendment of the Opposition upon paragraph six, referring to the Mexican expedition. He blamed the Imperial Government for throwing itself headlong into an enterprise which deserved the name of an adventure. France had no interest whatever in the establishment in the tropics of the Latin race, which M. Thiers hinted is apt to introduce disorder rather than order and prosperity in the countries it would colonise. Having got to Mexico, M. Thiers could not see why the French should any longer stay there. To await in it, were it only till next April, the Archduke's arrival, would prevent them returning to Europe for another year, and thus entail on France a heavy outlay, the return of which was very doubtful. The Emperor elect would be hardly settled in his capital than the rainy season will have commenced, and thus afford Juárez time and opportunity to disturb his rival. As for the wealth—the extraordinary wealth—of Mexico, M. Thiers did not believe that it exists: and, granting that it does, he demonstrated the impossibility of turning it to account for the next fifty years at least, and that under the best possible conditions. But such a state of things as enabled the House of Braganza to reduce Brazil from disorder to order could not exist in Mexico bordering as it is on the United States. A conflict with the Anglo-Americans he spoke of, as though inevitable at some future time, not far distant. M. Rouher replied. He declared that France would neither treat with Juárez nor with Almonte—the one being conquered and an enemy, the other devoid of any official position—but only with a ruler elected by universal suffrage. (Sensation.) After a speech from M. de Latour, M. Jules Favre alluded to the Mexican expedition. He dwelt upon the strange and difficult position in which the Archduke Maximilian will be placed, and compared the Mexican campaign to the campaign in Spain under the First Empire. M. Rouher warmly defended the expedition. He said: "Our presence in the Gulf of Mexico is the safeguard for the prosperity of our maritime commerce, which will be lost if we withdraw. The Government desires to evacuate Mexico as soon as possible, but not until universal suffrage shall have spoken. The establishment of a monarchy in Mexico is possible, and the result will be the prosperity of the country." There was a great row at the end of the debate in consequence of the majority refusing to grant the old Parliamentary privilege of the Opposition to have the last word against a Minister. M. Thiers cried out vehemently, "You are determined to hide the truth." The amendment was rejected by 201 to 47, and the paragraph was adopted.

On Thursday, after some debate, the amendment advocating the recognition of the Poles was rejected. M. Pelletan explained the amendment of the Left, proposing a rupture of diplomatic relations with Russia. The Duc de Morny defended Russia against the accusations of M. Pelletan, and declared that Russia was more democratic than the whole of Europe. The speaker explained why the committee desired to reconcile its sympathies for Poland with its respect for Russia, and said:—"Besides, no other solution is possible. It is necessary, even in the interests of the Poles, not to encourage the insurrection." M. Guérault demanded that Poland should not be exterminated under Napoleon III., after having been partitioned under Louis XV.

On Friday, M. Jules Favre spoke upon the diplomatic side of the Polish question. Alluding to the words of the Emperor, he pointed out the ill success of negotiation, and urged the necessity of breaking off all relations with Russia, in order to assert the rights which she had violated, and to manifest the indignation of the whole of Europe. The project of a congress was a generous impossibility. Russia was resolved to exterminate Poland. It was not requisite to make war, which would be folly in the state of isolation in which France was at present placed, but it was requisite to break off every kind of relation with a Power which had violated the right of treaties. M. Rouher opposed the amendment. He defended the congress project with energy, and showed that, in spite of the profound sympathies of the Government with Poland, it was necessary to await the solution of the question from time and the moral influence of France. The amendment was rejected. Paragraph 7 was adopted.

M. Guérault supported the amendment demanding the evacuation of Rome, which was rejected by 218 to 12.

The entire draft of the address was adopted by 234 to 12.

THE IMPERIAL REPLY.

On Monday the Emperor received the deputation from the Corps Législatif, which brought up the address in reply to the speech from the throne. His Majesty said, in reply, that the debates upon the confirmation of the members' elections and on the address had been long and profound, and though they had taken three months from the legislative business of the House, they had not been useless. To an impartial mind the result had been to reduce into nothing the

accusations which had been skilfully spread. The Emperor then continued:—

The policy of the Government is better appreciated. We have a more compact majority, and one more devoted to our institutions. These are great advantages. After the fruitless efforts of so many forms of government the first want of the country is stability. Nothing durable can be founded on an ever-shifting base without consistence.

For sixty years liberty has become an arm in the hands of parties to overthrow the existing Government. Thence have resulted incessant fluctuations—power succumbing to liberty, and liberty succumbing to anarchy. This must no longer exist. The example of previous years proves the possibility of conciliating what has long appeared irreconcilable. Really fecund progress is the fruit of experience.

Its advance will not be hastened by systematic and unjust attacks, but by the intimate union of the Government with a majority inspired by patriotism and unseparated by vain popularity.

Let us await, from agreement and from time, such ameliorations as are possible. Do not let the delusive hope of a chimerical future unceasingly compromise the present good which we have at heart to consolidate together. Let us each remain in our right sphere. You, gentlemen, enlightening and controlling the progress of the Government; I taking the initiative in all that may promote the greatness and prosperity of France.

542,061 persons subscribed for the new French loan of twelve millions, nearly fifteen times the amount required.

The Paris correspondent of the *Morning Post* says:—

It would be simple affectation not to acknowledge an unpleasant modification of the relations between the Governments of England and France. Diplomats speak of a "coolness," others use a less reserved term. England and the English, too, generally, are more unpopular than usual just now. You may hear it in the Senate, in the Legislative Chambers, in society, in a railway carriage. It is what the public know of the foreign policy of her Majesty's Government which mainly causes this general angry feeling. Frenchmen who are not Imperialists and who are Imperialists alike declare that the manner in which the Emperor's invitation to a congress was answered not only wounded the Sovereign, but was offensive to the French nation. This, we are reminded, is not to be forgotten. Then in is said that we will not join France in her foreign policy in any quarter of the globe, whilst we are constantly, and at the present moment, asking France to join us. I only repeat what I hear.

The *Gazette des Tribunaux* states that the preliminary investigations in the case of the Italians charged with conspiracy against the Emperor's life have terminated, and that the prisoners will certainly be tried at the assizes during the first fortnight of February. They are to be tried upon the full charge of a plot against the Emperor's life.

AUSTRIA.

Advices from Vienna repeat that the Emperor of Austria definitively gave on Saturday last his full consent to the acceptance by the Archduke Maximilian of the Imperial crown of Mexico. It is understood that his consent in no way engages the Austrian Empire. Early in March the second deputation will arrive with the result of the suffrages of the Mexican people; and immediately afterwards the new Emperor and Empress will leave for Vera Cruz. Preparations for their departure from Miramar are now being made.

In the sitting of the Lower House of the Reichsrath, on Sunday, the sum of 5½ millions of florins was voted for the Austrian proportion of the expenses of Federal execution in Holstein, instead of the ten millions demanded by the Government. The resolution brought forward by the Opposition a short time back was rejected by 103 against 59 votes. This resolution censured the course pursued by the Government, and stated that Austria has no interest in Schleswig-Holstein, and that her action should be subordinate to the policy of the Federal Diet.

ITALY.

It is reported from Italy that the discontented nationalities which make up so large a part of the Austrian empire are actively agitating in the expectation of a war which may give them a chance to strike for independence. Croats, Dalmatians, and Hungarians are said to be all acting in concert. The Italian Minister of War, on Saturday, remarked in the Senate that, "in case of serious events taking place," the Government would be able without danger to withdraw troops from the southern provinces to reinforce the army.

POLAND.

The official journal of Warsaw publishes an order of General Berg, according to which Poland is to be governed in future by martial law. The Russians are said to have accidentally discovered some of the archives of the National Government, in consequence of which many domiciliary visits and arrests have been made in Warsaw within the last few days.

Advices from Warsaw state that a cavalry detachment of insurgents has been seen at Jablonna, four miles from the metropolis. Two more engagements have occurred in the government of Radom, the first at Staszew, not far from Sandomir; the second at Iza. The insurgents were led by Bonak.

The special correspondent of the *Daily News* has been, at imminent risk, passing across the Posen frontiers into Russian Poland. He testifies to the intimate fraternisation between the Prussian military and the Cossacks, and denies that the insurrection is at an end.

The same correspondent, writing from Gnesen on the 25th ult., says:—

It is true that, with the exception of the detachment of General Kruk, in the government of Lublin, which has inflicted many severe blows on the Russians, and that of General Bossack, which occupies an impregnable position in the forests of Swienty Krzyz, or St. Croix, extending from Kielce, on the west, to Sandomir on the east, I am not aware of any considerable detachments in the field; but the country is scourged by small parties who in conformity with the directions issued by the National Government, confine themselves to constantly beating up the Russian quarters at night. Bossack has, at the lowest estimate, 2,500 men at his disposition, of which a large proportion consists of cavalry, and was hotly engaged with a Russian column, commanded by General Czengeri in person, from daybreak to nightfall on Jan. 8. The battle took place near the town of Iza, situated on the northern extremity of the forest of Swienty Krzyz, and the ground was most obstinately contested the combatants on both sides. The *Chivali* or the *Moment*, a journal which has sprung up from the ashes of my ancient friend the *Czas*, or the *Times*, admits that at nightfall the Poles had sustained a loss of 400 men, and supposes the Russian loss to have been at least as great. Neither side gained a decided advantage, and the Russians retired to Kielce, while the Poles entrenched themselves in the strong position in the heart of the forest which they now occupy.

That the insurrection will break out with renewed force in the spring appears certain. In the last week the weather has taken a turn most favourable to the insurgents, and all signs of winter have disappeared.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

The question of the secularised monastic property of Roumania has been settled by the Bucharest Chamber of Representatives voting an indemnity of 50 millions of francs to be paid to the religious communities of the Holy Places. The indemnity is to be covered by a loan.

The Turkish Government is strengthening all the defences of the Danube. Great agitation prevails in the Moldo-Wallachian provinces, and it is rumoured that Turkish troops will be concentrated on that frontier.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

The latest dates from New York are to Jan. 23. It was rumoured that Longstreet was advancing on Knoxville, reinforced by two divisions of Lee's army, but the report is very doubtful.

General Grant reports from Tennessee that the Confederate General Vance had made a raid towards Terville, capturing twenty-three wagons. Vance was, however, pursued, the wagons recaptured, and himself taken prisoner. Many deaths weekly occur in the hospitals at Chattanooga.

General Grant arrived at Louisville on the 11th from Knoxville, having made the journey with his staff through Cumberland Gap in the midst of snow and with much danger. He selected that route in order to see the nature of the country and the probabilities of supplying General Foster's army by that way. General Schofield had superseded General Foster at Knoxville.

Advices from Charleston to the 15th inst. state that the shelling of the city had been continued, causing some damage, but no casualties. The Federal fleet were preparing to resist the anticipated attack by the Confederate rams. The Confederates had erected defences inside Fort Sumter. General Gilmore had temporarily suspended siege operations and removed his headquarters to Hilton Head, where an extensive expedition, including several negro regiments, was fitting out for embarkation for some point not made public. Various rumours attribute the destination of the expedition to be the Savannah river, or to attack the railroad between Charleston and Savannah with the view of afterwards operating in the rear of Charleston. The Confederates anticipated an attack upon Wilmington, but subsequent Southern accounts announce that the Federals were landing at Morehead city, North Carolina.

All the reports with reference to General Stuart's attack upon Leesburg are pronounced to be entirely unfounded. Not a rebel has been seen recently within forty miles of that place, as a cavalry reconnaissance of Colonel Lowell efficiently testifies.

The *Wilmington* (North Carolina) *Journal* says that the recent visit of Butler to Newbern and the concentration of troops at Beaufort and Plymouth leave little room for doubt that an advance of the most serious character into North Carolina is intended by the Federals, perhaps with a view of destroying the railroad near Weldon.

The Washington correspondent of the *New York Times* asserts that a campaign against Richmond will be opened in the spring by two large armies, each equal to cope with Lee's army. One of these armies will advance by the Rappahannock, and the other by the way of the Peninsula.

General Banks had ordered a State election in Louisiana. He was confident that more than a tenth of the population desired restoration to the Union. He declared void the State laws regarding slavery, and appointed a convention for the revision of the constitution. Arrangements were being made to elect members to Congress. The Federals had occupied Madisonville, on Lake Pontchartrain.

Steamers from New Orleans on the 16th report that a Federal expedition to the Matagorda Peninsula, Texas, on the 30th of December, after effecting a landing, was driven back by a superior Confederate force, and only escaped capture through the protection of the gunboat Granite State. The Confederate vessel J. F. Carr, which participated in the engagement, grounded, and was destroyed by her crew to prevent capture. A reconnaissance of the Texan

coast by the Federal gunboat Sciota has discovered strong Confederate batteries at Valasco and Quintana, near the Brazos River. General Heron assumed the command at Brownsville on the 4th. General David was shortly to leave Brownsville for Matagorda Bay.

New Orleans letters to the 16th state that the Federals had abandoned the Têche country and returned east of Berwick's Bay.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Dawson, of Pennsylvania, proposed a resolution to the effect that when any State shall submit to the Government, hostilities against it shall cease, and its rights under the constitution be guaranteed. On the motion of Thaddeus Stevens, of Pennsylvania, Mr. Dawson's resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 79 to 56.

Numerous regiments of the Federal army continue to re-enlist.

General Butler's rule in Norfolk is represented to be extremely stringent. The city was guarded by negro troops. The *Richmond Enquirer* urges negotiations with General Butler for an exchange of prisoners, as this would not relieve General Butler from the decree of outlawry, and he would still, if captured, be hung.

A system of retaliation had commenced along the North Carolina frontier. Several soldiers have been hung in retaliation by the commanders of the opposing forces.

The *Richmond Enquirer* complains of the action of the Confederate Congress, and says there is danger that Congress, in its desire to restore the currency, and fill up the army, will bankrupt the country, and overthrow the framework of society and production.

A large body of Confederates are reported to have concentrated at Point Pelee, Canada, to attack Johnstone Island, Lake Erie, where the Confederate prisoners are confined. Two companies of Canadian rifles have been sent to Windsor, Canada, it is said in consequence of these movements.

The Raleigh (North Carolina) journals continue to urge a peaceful settlement with the North. The *Richmond Sentinel* remarks that too much importance has been given to this fact, as the whole North Carolina press, excepting the Raleigh journals, are patriotic and loyal. It was reported, however, at Newbern that a convention had been called in Raleigh for the purpose of carrying out the secession of North Carolina from the Southern Confederacy. This report requires confirmation.

It is generally conceded that Mr. Lincoln will be the regular Republican nominee for the Presidency.

The Secretary of the Navy had sent orders to the Provost-Marshal of New York that the British blockade violators would, when captured, not be released, but detained.

A military commission had been appointed to try all persons confined in Forts Lafayette and Warren.

Advices from Singapore to the 4th ultimo report the departure from that port of the Confederate steamer Alabama, and the subsequent destruction by her of one British and two American ships.

A late number of the *Richmond Whig* contains this remarkable passage:—"Slavery has stabbed itself to death. It has sinned against the light, committed the unpardonable sin, and must die."

General Rosecranz has been appointed to command the Department of the Missouri.

The Maryland Legislature has nominated Mr. Lincoln for the Presidency.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE NEGRO IN AMERICA.—The following are extracts from a letter from America to a friend in England. The writer is well known as a staunch friend of the anti-slavery cause. "1. Bills are pending in Congress for reunion and emancipation, upon the basis of the President's message—the basis of freedom immediate and for ever, slavery to be for ever prohibited in the United States. 2. Black troops are being placed upon an equality with white ones as to pay and position in the service, and, as it was not so at first, the arrears are in case of Massachusetts troops being paid up from the first. 3. Black men are being elected with white men as delegates to a Southern Union convention, for reunion on the President's terms. 4. The worst pro-slavery churches are the centres of the most practical anti-slavery energy, e.g., Park-street, where the articles say that a black man shall not own a pew, applaud their pastor to the echo, and sustain him to the utmost, when, on his return from his regiment (being chaplain on leave of absence from his people), he declares "that the black man is our very brother, dear and beloved as an equal brother and fellow-citizen." Then sound of weeping and clapping of hands, in that very meeting-house, so long consecrated to cold solemn prejudice calling itself piety. Humanity has prevailed. The rising generation, emancipated by the war from slaveholding dominion, have transcended it. 5. The last formed Union-leagues, spreading like wildfire over the land, are formed on the basis of immediate emancipation. These are but a few of the signs of the times. Can you wonder that I am hopeful?"

THE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE had been laid before the Congress at Washington. The most interesting part, so far as this country is concerned, is that relating to the building of war ships for the Confederates in this country. The result appears to have been satisfactory alike to this Government and to the Government of the United States. In July Mr. Seward, referring to the Alexandra decision, writes to Mr. Adams that if British law must be left without amendment, and be construed by the Government in accordance with the rulings of the Chief Baron, there will be left for the United States no

alternative but to protect themselves and commerce against armed cruisers proceeding from British ports as against the naval officers of the public enemy; they will also claim and insist upon indemnities for injuries committed by such expeditions. If the Federal naval force is not sufficient for the emergency the United States must employ a private armed force, afforded by the mercantile marine. In one of his latest despatches Mr. Seward requests Mr. Adams to inform Earl Russell that the Federal Government will hereafter hold itself obliged, with even more cause than heretofore, to endeavour to conduct its intercourse with England so that the civil war, when terminated, will leave to neither nation any permanent cause for discontent. With regard to France, M. Drouyn de Lhuys had urged the recognition of Mexico as a monarchy by the Washington Government. Mr. Seward had firmly declined; and while avowing that the United States would adhere to a policy of non-intervention, he expresses a belief that the establishment of a monarchical Government will be found neither desirable nor easy.

A SOUTHERNER ON THE EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION.—Mr. Gantt, ex-brigadier-general in Mr. Davis's army, was in Cincinnati, a short time since, en route to Washington, at the head of a delegation of Arkansians, who hope to secure the readmission of their State to the Union. He was serenaded, and made a speech, in the course of which he used this language:—

When the blow was struck we found that the Confederacy was based on negro slavery—established solely for the perpetuation of that institution. We had never divided the Government of our fathers; and we found, to our grief, that in our anxiety for the safety of slavery we had founded a Government on no principles of patriotism—merely as a matters of dollars and cents. We thought you wanted to drive slavery into a corner where it would sting itself to death, and we wanted to protect it. We thought we would have a Government all to ourselves, where this institution would not be interfered with, and we hoped still further to strengthen it, in the course of time, by grasping the islands adjacent to our States; by annexing Mexico, and by reaching forward even, and swallowing some of the anacondas of South America. (Laughter.) This was all before Lincoln's proclamation. But what was the result? Delaware would not come with us; Maryland hesitated, and then clung to the old flag; Kentucky did not respond. She hesitated in gloom and amid fields of blood, and then, emerging from the cloud, shone brightly as ever in the collection of stars. Missouri, too, long a scene of bloody conflict, has returned to the Union. She toppled amid the wreck and disorder, but again sparkles in the nation's coronet of stars. This looked bad to us. Slavery seemed worse hemmed in than ever before, and we feared we should be forced to abandon it and the struggle. We waited long and patiently for our recognition by foreign powers. But instead of that came Lincoln's proclamation of emancipation. (Prolonged applause.) What does his proclamation amount to? said we. Our Government doesn't ratify it; it doesn't affect our constitution. But armies had been raised, and under the old flag the legions of the North and West bore down upon us, and they brought with them—the proclamation! (Cheers.) We called them Lincoln's hordes, but with their appearance the manacles fell from off our slaves, and they were free. We in the interior saw this result along the rivers, and we pitied our friends who were thus feeling the effects of the proclamation; but we soon felt the same trouble, and we laughed no more on that subject. And here let me express my belief that God Almighty intended this war to be the death-blow to slavery. From the first we can trace circumstances and signals which point unmistakably to this fact. Every circumstance in this rebellion shows a struggle in the nature of things to free the nation from the blight of this curse. And we will throw it off and be a more homogeneous and united people than ever before. The people of the South did not understand this at first, but they are beginning to learn it.

RE-ENLISTMENT.—In the army of the Potomac, which has suffered more and apparently accomplished less than any other Federal force, it is said that at least three-fourths, and probably seven-eighths, will re-enlist, and in General Grant's department, where a series of victories has inspired the men, the re-enlistments of veteran regiments have been nearly unanimous. In General Banks's department also the same encouraging state of affairs exists, so that there is every prospect that the spring campaign will reopen with the Federal forces at least as strong as they are at present. The Confederates, as you have doubtless observed, have looked forward hopefully to the time when the term of these three-years' men should expire, confident that then the Federal forces would be to a great extent disbanded, and that then they might recover some of the ground that they had lost. The friends and supporters of the Government, on the other hand, have anticipated this period with apprehension, fearful lest these veterans, wearied of camp life and its privations, might return to their homes and leave new levies to stand in their places; but the anticipations of the one class and the forebodings of the other are apparently to prove groundless.—*Star Correspondent.* The lowest calculation I have yet heard of the proportion that will re-enlist for the war of the troops whose term expires next summer is 75 per cent. There will be, I believe, about 100,000 entitled to their discharge at that time, and over 60,000 have already re-engaged for three years or the war, and others are doing so rapidly. The recruiting is going on so well that several States have already filled up their quota under the last call for 300,000 men; none of them are very far behind it, and I think the deficit, if any, on the 1st of March will be very small, thanks to the high bounties. What is most important in all this is, that these new levies do not, as of old, take the field in separate regiments under raw officers, but are at once drafted

into old regiments, and take their places amongst soldiers and under officers who have already borne the brunt of three of the bloodiest and most chequered campaigns on record. I believe, therefore, that the Northern army will, in spring, be the most effective the Federals have ever had.—*Daily News Correspondent.*

MEXICO.

Advices from Mexico to the 2nd inst. state that in the battle of Morelia Juarez lost all his artillery and 2,000 prisoners. Three battalions of the army of Juarez passed over to the Imperialists. The forces of Uriaga and Beriozabel had also been defeated. No further organised resistance on the part of the Mexicans is expected. Juarez fled secretly, without any escort. He was last heard of at Zacatecas. The French had occupied San Luis, and an attempt to dislodge them had signally failed. General Bazaine was likely to open a way to some Pacific port. It is stated that seventeen out of twenty-three States of Mexico have given their votes in favour of the Archduke Maximilian, and that consequently the empire is regarded as a *fait accompli*.

ST. DOMINGO.

Intelligence received from St. Domingo to the 12th ult. announces a fresh victory of the Spanish troops over the insurgents. The insurgent general, Florentina, had shot twenty-five prisoners. General Santana had gone to a conference with Vargas. The steamer Puerto Rico had landed on the island 2,500 Spanish soldiers, who had occupied Barahona, Matas, and Neiva. General Antonio Alfán had surrounded 500 insurgents in their camp at Guamuna. All the southern parts of Santo Domingo, as far as San Jose de los Matos, had surrendered to Spain, and were occupied by Spanish troops.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

A telegram last week reported that Major Gordon had captured Souchow. He attacked the city at 8 a.m. on the 5th of December, and entered the place on the same morning. Dissension had broken out amongst the rebels, and a party of them, desirous of surrendering the city, "cut the Mo Wang's head off." Rumour says that 30,000 wanted to surrender, and that 2,000 remained true to the cause. A letter from Hong Kong of Dec. 15th says:—

It appears that the rebel chiefs refused to surrender on the Footai's word that no unnecessary blood should be shed, whereon Gordon got the Footai's promise to himself, and gave his word, on which they capitulated. The Footai got in, had his troops concealed about, and when Gordon was outside, commenced a wholesale massacre—men, women, and children. Gordon heard of it, gathered a few men together, among the rest Count or Prince Wittgenstein, and broke into the place, and the scenes then witnessed were so revolting that the Prince says they all fired and loaded and fired again on every mandarin and imperial soldier they met. Gordon is said to have shot thirty-five buttons himself. They penetrated to the Footai's palace; but suspecting, it is supposed, that some such thing might be looked for, he proved too strong for attack. Everyone is disgusted to no ordinary extent, and the feeling of regret is universal that Gordon did not succeed in capturing the Footai and hanging him. Gordon has returned to Quinsin, which he continues to hold in the meantime.

The *Hong Kong Daily Press* says:—"We learn on good authority that upon the fall of Souchow, Gordon will retire from the imperial service, and that a consular notification will be issued strictly prohibiting all British subjects from engaging their services either to Imperialist or Taeping. A change has clearly come over the spirit of the dream, and honest convictions have overtaken her Majesty's Ministers."

Hangchow, it was thought, would soon fall, and, failing other means, "the Imperialists will be able to starve the rebels out of Nankin. Between surrender and death, the Souchow army will, no doubt, cease to exist."

The *Hong Kong Mail* of Dec. 15 says:—

The great event not only of the fortnight but of the present year, has been the dismissal from the Chinese service of Mr. H. N. Lay, who, for several years back, has filled the post of Inspector-General of Foreign Customs. The cause of his dismissal is understood to be that Mr. Lay's demands upon the Chinese Government were not only preposterous themselves, but somewhat arrogantly urged. Mr. Lay's dismissal is not regretted either by the customs *employés* or by the foreign mercantile community of China. His successor, Mr. R. Hart, enters office with the general good wishes and esteem of the whole mercantile body.

The germ of this affair has been the squadron which arrived in China some time ago under the command of Captain Sherard Osborn. The course which Captain Osborn should probably have pursued was to have reported himself on his arrival in the Yangtze river to the Governor-General of the Two Kiangs, and to have given him delivery of the fleet. Mr. Lay, however, is reported to have demanded the direct recognition by Prince Kung of Captain Osborn, and to have declined delivering over the vessels to any local provincial officer. Tseng Kwo-fan, to whom the Chinese Government desired the vessels to be given, is a man of great note, and rules over not less than 20,000,000 of people, besides possessing most extensive influence in the Chinese Empire. The fleet is still reported as being about to sail for England; and the whole affair promises to be one of the most disgraceful matters with which the British name has ever been mixed up.

From Japan we learn that Satsuma still declines to pay the indemnity demanded from him by Admiral Kuper, except upon condition that every foreigner quits Yokohama. The British forces in Japan, says the *China Mail*, "are evidently waiting for support, and are not likely to withdraw from the country until something has been done much more decisive than the affair at Kagosima."

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

Belgium is still without a Ministry. The King, it is said, has addressed himself to the Prince de Ligne, to constitute what is called a business Cabinet; that is to say, one without political character.

TWO MISSIONARIES SHOT.—The Rev. Mr. Vanatta, of Iowa, and his wife, killed on board the steamer Brazil, near Donaldson, Mississippi river, December 11th, by a shot from a rebel battery on the shore, were going South as teachers to freedmen.—*Philadelphia Presbyterian.*

On the 19th ult. the Pope gave audience to Captain Grant, the discoverer of the sources of the Nile, and appeared to be much interested in the maps submitted to him by that intrepid explorer, and by his accounts of those tropical regions. His Holiness was pleased to express his satisfaction at the captain's visit, and requested him to accept a medal as a souvenir of it.

THE PRINCESS ROYAL.—The Berlin correspondent of a contemporary says:—"The Princess Victoria, whose indisposition has not been of a severe character, is recovering. Monday was the sixth anniversary of her wedding-day, and it was celebrated by a most successful ball (the second this month) at the British embassy. About 400 persons were present, including Prince Frederick William and various other members of the Royal family, several of the Ministers, the diplomatic corps, &c. The spacious suite of apartments was brilliantly lighted up, and dancing and supping went on well into the morning hours. Unfortunately, the heroine of the feast, the Princess herself, in whose honour it was given, was not well enough to be present."

THE DANISH COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.—The *Liverpool Post* publishes a letter from Flensburg, in which the following account is given of General de Meza, the Danish general:—"With the general in command I have the honour to be well acquainted, having frequently dined at his house. He is a tried soldier, and was the hero of the greatest battle (Istod) which the Danes fought during the war of 1848-51. This general is a character: his coolness is extraordinary. During the heat of the fight to which I have alluded, his white kid gloves were bespattered with blood; he quietly drew them off, threw them away, took another pair from his pocket and put them on, as though nothing had happened. He is also a good linguist, speaking perfectly some eight languages, and is, moreover, a composer. He has dictated one composition to my wife. He was the right hand friend of the late, and an intimate one of the present, King."

DR. DUFF, THE GREAT MISSIONARY, after a career of self-denial which began thirty-four years ago in India, has finally bidden it farewell; he has left in the Hotspur, and will spend a month at the Cape of Good Hope en route for England. The subscription for his memorial hall is progressing, and just before he left, six members of the Free Church, to which he belongs, in answer to an appeal in his affecting farewell address, sent him each 200*l.* to build rooms for his six schools in the interior. His has been a career extending in time over that of six Viceroys, and, in a sense, not inferior in results to their united labours. He has been the leader of a great intellectual and religious revolution, which the future historian of India will trace as we do that of the Reformation in Europe.—*Times Correspondent.*

CHRISTMAS-DAY AT BETHLEHEM.—The *Monde* publishes, on the authority of two letters from its correspondent in the Holy Land, the following account of deplorable scenes of violence and disorder which occurred at Bethlehem on Christmas-day, caused, according to the writer, by the fanaticism of the Greek Christians against the Latins:—"According to the usual practice, the Latin Patriarch and his clergy assembled about noon on the 24th of December at the Patriarchal Seminary of Beit-Djalo, and went thence in grand procession, accompanied by an immense crowd, to the church of St. Mary ad Præsepe, or rather of St. Helena, through which the Latins have only a disputed right of passage to the small church of St. Catharine, where the vespers for Christmas-eve were solemnly chanted. Afterwards came the night service, celebrated pontifically by the Patriarch, assisted by his clergy. After the midnight mass, the Patriarch, bearing a cradle supposed to contain the infant Jesus, went in solemn procession to the Grotto of the Nativity, and deposited the cradle on the stone which marks the very spot where the Saviour was born; the "Gloria in Excelsis" and the "Te Deum" were next sung. Masses were then said at the altar of the Magi until the time appointed for the Greeks to enter the Grotto and chant their liturgy, after which the Latin masses were again resumed, and continued during the morning. At half-past eleven, while a Franciscan monk was engaged in celebrating mass, the Superior of the Greek convent entered the Grotto and complained of the Latins keeping possession of the altar too long. A Latin monk having refused to allow him to advance until the conclusion of the service, the Superior rushed in the church of St. Helena, belonging to the Greeks, ordered the bells to be rung, and called on his co-religionists to drive out the Latins. He was heard to exclaim, "Kill four or five of those dogs; we will hold you blameless." A fierce conflict then ensued between the Latins and the Greeks in the choir of the church of St. Helena, in spite of all the efforts of the Latin Patriarch to prevent such a scandalous scene. At last, however, the Mussulman Mulzelim of Bethlehem arrived with an armed force, and soon got the mastery of the Greeks, though they resisted violently at first. Two Latin monks were slightly wounded in the fray.

Four of the Greek party were also wounded, and among them the Superior of the convent who had been the cause of the conflict. In the evening twenty-five Bashi-Bazouks were sent to Bethlehem by the Pasha of Jerusalem, accompanied by three officials, empowered to hold an inquiry into the affair and bring the guilty parties to justice.

MADAGASCAR.

The *Missionary Magazine* for February contains some correspondence from Madagascar, including a letter from the Rev. W. Ellis, dated Antananarivo, Oct. 9. Referring to the long-credited report that King Radama was still alive, Mr. Ellis says:—

The King's return was so confidently and persistently affirmed by parties circumstanced to know, and with so many matters of detail, that, though I long, even for months, refused it credence, I could not resist the evidence any longer, and communicated the report of his being alive to you, and more recently of his expected return to the capital. I have now reason to believe that both these reports were utterly unfounded.

The chief anxiety felt by the missionaries, and probably by the Native Government, arises from the ill-judged and unconstitutional treaty made by the late king with M. Lambert, which the present Government refuse to ratify, and, indeed, which they could not venture to adopt without provoking the universal hostility of the people. On this subject the Rev. A. Toy says:—

The French, on account of the refusal of the present Government to acknowledge the Lambert treaty, are, if report be true, determined, it would appear, to make a fresh effort to obtain possession of the country. Under these circumstances, and independently of the uncertainty which still exists as to the ultimate intentions of the present sovereign respecting the liberty now extended to the Christians, it seems to me that it would be most unwise to hasten the erection of the proposed "memorial churches." My own feeling is, that only one should be built for the present. By the time this is completed, you will be in a far better position than is now possible for deciding what future course to adopt.

Mr. Ellis expresses a strong hope that, whatever may take place between the French and English Governments, the latter "will secure the protection on the part of the French of the persons and property of the missionaries, as well as other English subjects in Madagascar." Mr. Ellis thus vindicates himself from charges brought by the French:—

My name may possibly be brought forward in connection with the proceedings of the French, as having counselled the course which the Hovas have taken in refusing the claims of M. Lambert; for I have heard that some of the French officers have said that they think I am even employed by the English Government to oppose their treaty. I need not say that this is utterly untrue. I do not at present know exactly what the so-called concession includes. I was present, at the King's request, when the document was read, before being signed; but considering that it was a sort of private transaction between Radama and M. Lambert, a transaction about which I could have nothing to say, I did not attend to its contents, and I have never since, though often asked, given an opinion, but always said they must consider about that themselves; excepting on one occasion, when the King asked my opinion about the coinage, I said that all sovereigns, so far as I knew, kept the coinage of the countries over which they ruled in their own hands. In regard to the treaty with the emperor, I do not recollect the terms of that treaty; and on one occasion, when strongly pressed for my opinion, said, "If there is nothing very objectionable in that treaty, I would suggest to you the desirableness of your adopting it at once as it is; but, if there is anything very objectionable, ask if it can be changed." I am clear of having said that much, when pressed for an opinion, but have never said more, and generally have declined giving any opinion, on the ground that I had nothing to say on any arrangements between them and the French.

There is no doubt that the Prime Minister, who has two other wives, has married the Queen, and that he exercises unlimited authority. He is, says Mr. Stagg, "friendly with us," and "thoroughly understands and knows that the progress of Christianity will be the only means whereby real advancement may be made amongst the people; but we must not shut our eyes to the fact that there are other men of power who are not friendly to Christianity." Mr. Stagg also says that the Queen makes no secret of her worship of idols. Mr. Ellis writes on the same subject:—

The personal characters of the sovereign and the chief Minister are not unexceptionable; but the former, though openly and uniformly patronising the idols, and regulating almost every movement of her life by the directions of the diviners, has encouraged, but never hindered, attendance on religious worship and instruction to any of her people who are Christians. The latter, and the members of his family in the government, have steadily contended for the continuance of perfect religious liberty. We therefore see no impediment to the continued spread of the Gospel from this source, nor from anything among the people, more than is to be found in every community in a corresponding social and religious condition.

Mr. Toy also remarks on this subject:—

She (the Queen) seems to be of a mild and humane disposition, but thoroughly superstitious, and a firm believer in all the beliefs and customs of her ancestors. The *Sikidy* and the diviners are always at hand, and nothing of importance is ever transacted without their being previously consulted. Her favourite idol is kept in the palace while she is there herself, and accompanies her when she goes out. Every important public act is performed either on a Thursday or Sunday, the only two lucky days in the week; and as the diviners have to choose which of the two is the more fortunate, it not unfrequently happens that the lot falls upon the Sunday. Her coronation took place on the Sunday, and occupied nearly the whole day. On the return of the soldiers and officers from the war against some of the tribes who had

revolted, though it took place on the Friday, they were not permitted to enter the town till the Sunday: and occasionally some of the officers are prevented from attending at the different churches on account of a summons to attend an important kabary, designedly appointed for that day. Beyond this, however, I am not aware of any restriction having been imposed upon any of the Christians since her accession to the throne, and there is little room for doubt but that the high officers enjoy more liberty of conscience than during the latter part of the late King's reign.

The number of converts both in the capital and adjacent villages were considerably on the increase, but the natives sadly needed training and enlightenment. Mr. Ellis says:—

We are sometimes startled to see men who would have drunk the poison or knelt before the spear rather than promise not to read the Scriptures or pray, hesitate whether it is right to pray at any other time than the regularly-observed seasons, without first obtaining the approval of the Government. Recent changes for a very short time interfered with the regularity of attendance on our public services; but there have been for some time past regular and apparently maturely considered accessions to our numbers from among the unbelievers and the heathen.

Mr. Ellis thinks that the missionaries will best serve the cause of Christ in Madagascar, by taking charge, in conjunction with native pastors, of two important churches in the capital, one of which is formed, and the other will be as soon as the building for its worship is completed. Three of their schools contain 184 scholars, while between 140 and 150 receive instruction in the central school. "We could multiply schools in the villages if we had teachers, and are greatly in want of a thoroughly good, industrious schoolmistress." The Rev. R. Toy fully concurs with Mr. Ellis in the immediate urgency of all practicable measures for consolidating the churches in the capital and its vicinity, inasmuch as the influence of the capital upon the whole island, whether for good or evil, is most powerful and decisive. He writes:—

Among the different churches in the town, considerable progress has been made since the date of my last letter. The average attendance is, perhaps, much about the same, certainly not less, while the number of candidates for church-fellowship has continued steadily to increase. The chapels all continue to be well attended, and some are over-crowded. The country churches, however, have suffered severely in consequence of the alarm caused by the late revolution; but they are, for the most part, beginning to show signs of improvement. I have now six of those churches under my supervision.

The Rev. W. E. Cousins had paid a visit to Vonezongo, a district lying on the western border of the province of Imerina. In this quarter in the reign of Radama I. schools were established, and the seeds of Christian truth scattered by their honoured predecessors. The seed sown has sprung up. Mr. Cousins says:—

I gathered some particulars as to the number of Christians in the district of Vonezongo, which are sufficient to make us anxious to do something for them. The population is not great, and very scattered. The number of Christians is rather more than 600. There are three leading churches, in connection with which Baptism and the Lord's Supper are administered. The smaller churches join with these once a-month. The number of church-members is 122; and of those who are baptized, but still not full members, 18. Our predecessors, under Radama's patronage, started schools at six villages; at five of which there are still congregations. Mr. Griffiths gave six Bibles to different people in the district. Three still remain, and God has indeed blessed them. We thus enter into other men's labours, and reap where we never sowed. Mr. Cousins was the first European missionary who, since the days of persecution, had journeyed to that distant part of the island, and the native Christians whom he found there were those who had learnt the faith of Christ through the lips of evangelists who had either fled thither for refuge, or who had been doomed to slavery by the persecuting Government of Queen Ranavalona.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

BRIGHTON.—On Thursday Mr. Henry Fawcett met a large body of the constituency in the Assembly Rooms of the Town Hall. There were about a thousand persons present. The chair was occupied by Lieutenant-Colonel Fawcett. Mr. Fawcett, in the course of a long speech, which was much applauded, said that Mr. Otway had withdrawn in his favour, and that if he found in the course of a week that he did not stand so good a chance of uniting the Liberals, or that Mr. Goldsmid was more favoured by the electors, he pledged himself not to continue his candidature for a single moment from that time. (Cheers.) The hon. candidate then proceeded to explain his political views. He declared that his sympathies were in favour of the Northern States of America, and that he was opposed to England going to war in connection with the Dano-German dispute. He advocated an extension of the franchise, vote by ballot, and the abolition of Church-rates, and resumed his seat amidst enthusiastic cheering. A resolution in Mr. Fawcett's favour was carried by acclamation. Meantime, Mr. Fawcett and Mr. Goldsmid are pushing their cause in the borough, and both are stated to have received strong promises of support. It is to be hoped, however, that before the polling arrives it will be determined which gentleman shall stand. Two Conservative candidates have come into the field for Brighton. One is Mr. Harper, who seeks the suffrages of the electors on the ground of his determination to oppose Popery. The other is Mr. Moor, who retired a few days ago in consequence of a disagreement with the clergy of the town. That split appears to have been healed, and he again announces his candidature.

DURHAM.—Mr. John Henderson, the well-known

carpet-manufacturer, who is the candidate for the vacant Parliamentary seat at Durham, has issued an address to the electors. It is Liberal and Palmerstonian in its tone. It is understood that the Conservatives, who already possess one city representative of their party, in the person of the Right Hon. J. R. Mowbray, will offer no opposition to the election of Mr. Henderson, as the successor of the late Sir W. Atherton. By a compromise at the last general election, each party returned a representative without opposition, and there seems at present to be no desire to disturb this arrangement.

DEVONPORT.—Sir Arthur Buller, the Liberal member for Devonport, and Mr. Brassey, the new Liberal candidate, addressed a large number of their supporters in the hall of the Devonport Mechanics' Institute on Friday evening. The Liberals are very busy in that borough, organising to oppose the Conservatives, who intend to dispute both seats at the next election. Mr. Lane, the head of the house of Lane, Harker, and Co., of Old Broad-street, London, made his *début* at Plymouth on Friday evening before the leaders of the Conservative party in that borough as their candidate at the next election.

NEWCASTLE.—On Tuesday evening, a preliminary meeting of the Liberal electors of Newcastle was held in the Long-room of the Queen's Head, Pilgrim-street, to take into consideration the representation of the borough in the event of the looked-for general election during the ensuing session. Mr. Joseph Cowen, jun., was called to the chair. He reviewed at some length the home and foreign policy of the Government, and criticised the conduct of the borough members. Mr. Anderson moved the first resolution to the effect:—

That, in the opinion of this meeting, the present state of the representation of Newcastle is not satisfactory.

Mr. Angus, in seconding the motion, advocated the right of the Nonconformists to be represented in Parliament. The chairman having put the resolution to the meeting, it was carried unanimously. The Rev. J. H. Rutherford moved the second resolution:—

That any candidate entitled to the support of the independent electors should be prepared to vote for a comprehensive measure of Parliamentary reform, religious freedom, retrenchment, and non-intervention.

The rev. gentleman supported the resolution in a comprehensive speech, urging the imperative necessity of Parliamentary reform. The Rev. W. Walters briefly seconded the resolution. Some discussion ensued, in the course of which Mr. Thomas and Mr. George Dodds suggested the propriety of securing a candidate who would support a Permissive Bill in Parliament. The resolution was put to the meeting and carried. Mr. Haslam moved the third and last resolution:—

That a committee be appointed to look out for a suitable candidate willing to contest the representation of the borough, and that the said committee be empowered to call a public meeting and submit the whole question of the representation to the people for consideration.

Mr. Sinclair having seconded the resolution, it was unanimously adopted. The following gentlemen were appointed as the committee, pursuant to the terms of the above resolution:—Mr. Anderson, the Rev. J. H. Rutherford, Mr. George Dodds, Mr. Robinson, Mr. Sinclair, the Rev. W. Walters, and the chairman (Mr. Jos. Cowen).

THE DESTRUCTION OF KAGOSIMA.—A lecture was delivered by E. Fry, Esq., on the destruction of Kagosima, to a most respectable and crowded audience, in the large upper room of the Town Hall, Brighton, on Tuesday evening last. The chair was filled by M. Wallis, Esq. On the platform were—H. Fawcett, Esq., the Liberal candidate for the borough (whose arrival was the signal for a most hearty burst of applause), J. Noble, Esq., J.P.; Rev. R. V. Price, H. Hooper, Esq., &c. After drawing a clever sketch of the country, and the manners and habits of the Japanese people, Mr. Fry described the murder of Richardson and the steps taken by our Government and the officers in charge of the naval squadron to obtain reparation for it. These he denounced in the most eloquent terms as disgraceful to any civilised nation, and concluded by calling upon the English people to disavow most emphatically this act of their admiral. The Rev. R. V. Price then moved, and H. Hooper, Esq., seconded, the following resolution, which was carried unanimously:—

That this meeting has heard with the deepest regret and dissatisfaction of the employment of a British naval squadron to bombard and destroy the great city of Kagosima, in Japan. They cannot but regard such an act of unscrupulous vengeance as likely to bring a deep reproach upon the British name, and to retard the spread of Christian civilisation amongst the Japanese.

At the close of the meeting there were loud calls for Mr. Fawcett, who in responding paid a high tribute to the talent of the lecturer, whose eloquent discourse he could entirely endorse.

THE LATE ALDERMAN LIVSEY, OF ROCHDALE.—The remains of this gentleman were interred on Saturday. The funeral was a public one, being attended by all the local public bodies. It is estimated that 2,000 persons were in the procession, and that the spectators numbered 40,000. Mr. Bright, who was unable to attend, sent a letter, in which he said:—"I am sure there will be a large expression of feeling in the town on this melancholy occasion—in which I shall and do share. I should like to join in raising a sum of money to erect a modest memorial over the grave of a man whose services have been so useful to the town and country, and in whom were seen so much sympathy for the people, a strong sense of justice, and a real magnanimity of character. Truly Tom Livsey was a diamond, though not highly polished. I lament his loss with a sincere sorrow."

Literature.

CHARLES SWAIN'S LAST POEMS.*

There was a recognised place for Mr. Charles Swain among the poetical writers of the time, even so long as twenty years ago. Since then his graceful verses have been introduced into many selections from the works of modern authors, and his name has become well known where no volume of his has ever found its way. We used to think of him in former years as belonging to the group which included Alaric Watts, Hervey, and Moir: but we have come to place him even higher than they. With Milnes and Trench, with Elliott and Mackay, we set him side by side; and while their works are read, his will not be forgotten. Not that his best is high as the best of the highest of these, but that it is not unworthy of the companionship of theirs. Mr. Swain has not always been worthy of himself, and would certainly have gained higher estimation and wider popularity had his verses been fewer, and had those having trivial subjects and commonplace sentiments been withheld from the public, even though written for self-indulgence. In his best pieces we find definite subject, imaginatively conceived, though never marked by powerful or brilliant imagination in its development or adornment,—genuine feeling, quiet and truthful, rather than passionate and strong,—and a clearness and elegance of phrase which might well be admiringly praised, were it not almost too level and monotonous.

The new volume, which, from the sketch that stands first, Mr. Swain has named "Art and Fashion," is, perhaps, more various in power, and more satisfying to the demand of the mind for the sensuousness which Milton makes one of the essentials of poetry, than some other works in which he has been musically meditative, or persuasively didactic, but little more. The series of dramatic sketches with which it opens is scarcely dramatic in any other sense than that a scene is laid, and that two or three persons exchange remarks. There is the want of vital personality. In only two is there any incident, properly speaking. That in which poor Haydon appears is nearest drama, and, though the most truthful, is the least pleasing of the series. That having Sir Joshua Reynolds and Goldsmith for subject contains passages that are full of truth, and that have much gracefulness. Here is a pretty picture, attributed to "Goldy":—

"To me—nay, do not laugh,—in sooth, to me
There is a spirit in Creation which
Seems cognisant of Art! The woodland stream
Ripples its silver course by mead and rock,
By nest of moorland lark, by park of deer,
Or sedgy nook, that would a painter choose;
The smallest flower that decks the hem of spring
Seeks, as by instinct, some romantic spot,
Some shady slope, to dress its beauty in.
Earth closely knits in universal Art
The commonwealth of seasons, and their change;
Nature, a colourist—supreme as truth—
Paints with a pencil dipped in setting suns!

The wild rose climbs the gate, or slyly seeks
Some old white gable to display herself;
Conscious of contrast, or, in playful mood,
Toys with the sun, and kisses her own shade."

The phrases, "that would a painter choose," and "some romantic spot," are instances of a certain weakness of expression which were easily corrected if the writer's facility were less and his labour more. All these sketches have art-subjects. Another presents to us the young Gainsborough and his mother, and contains the following passage on the artist-life:—

"Think of his glowing life!
To linger in the light of golden eyes;
Take lessons of the clouds, the streams, the hills;
Ramble 'mid woody rocks and winding glades;
To watch the panorama of the roads,—
The rustic cart to distant market bound,
The harvest waggon on its rumbling way,
Children beneath the hedgerows gathering haws,
The ploughman and his team, or tripping lass
With wicker basket, and her weekly eggs.
All country pictures have a charm for me!
The sheep that spot the mead, like drifting snow;
The lowing kine within the sedgy pool;
Crows wandering home before the dusk of eve;
The aged woodman sheltering from the storm;
Even the shepherd dog, by meadow gate,
Waiting some well-known footstep, are enough
To fill my mind with pictures yet to be!"

Any one familiar with Gainsborough's pictures will recall the hints for this passage; but there is little of the special individuality of the painter developed, or even indicated. One can almost think of Leonardo da Vinci thus describing the mental process of the production of his "Lord's Supper":—

"Good my liege,
The painting honoured with such special praise
Was my sole thought for years:—full oft the hope

* *Art and Fashion: with other Sketches, Songs, and Poems.* By CHARLES SWAIN. London: Virtue Brothers and Co.

Of its accomplishment died in my breast,
Again to be renew'd—with higher zeal
And bolder impulse; then again delay'd.
The day my hand, irresolute and slow,
Dared the commencement of so grand a theme,
A solemn sense of some companionship
Compell'd my pencil silently to paint;—
Fused feeling into colours;—soon this passed,
And my whole being own'd some presence gone.
Still day by day, week, month, and year, I strove
Onward, though slow, till each Disciple's head
Before my mind, as in a mirror, came,
And lived upon the canvas as they rose;
When each received my last, half-lingering touch,
I turned to that, which made reflection ache,
To that—the one untouched—all else complete;
The head of our Redeemer—the Divine,
Incarnate Saviour,—Ransom infinite!
How dared I execute those lineaments?
With what expression might I mould that face—
That head, which God himself had glorified—
That hand which Angels worshipp'd in their spheres:
That hand!—Oh, miracle of gracious love,—
Which gave itself to wounds, our souls to heal,
And lift them pure before the face of God?
I paused and wept:—what could I else but weep?

Then passed a vision, or perchance a dream,
I know not what, but vision it appeared!
In which I seem'd spectator, and not actor:—
Coming and going without thought of mine—
A vision that surprised me into tears!"

This, we have reason to think, is for the most part exceedingly truthful; the hint, in this case, being taken from undoubted history. We suppose Mr. Swain thought it a poetical necessity to say "canvas," for the wall on which the picture was actually painted.

The first of the "Poems" is "The Chapel-Bell"—a sort of dramatic lyric, in which a murderess, who has taken the life of her false lover as he left the altar with the new-made bride preferred to herself, is made to tell her story, mingled with her troubled thoughts and flickering phantasies: and we name it only to protest that it is no fitting subject, and to express surprise that so gentle and healthy a poet has been caught by its ghastly fascination. The thoughtfulness of "Years to come," "The best estate," and "In Memoriam," suffers somewhat from diffuseness; but each is a genuine little poem. "The Vicar's Blind Daughter" has touching simplicity and truth. "Watching and Waiting,"—with something of the feeling, though scarcely of the subtle suggestion and power, of Mr. Kingsley's "Sands of Dee" or "Three Fishers,"—will speak for itself.

"Ever weeping at the casement,
Ever looking, leaning out,
While the village, in amazement,
Wonders what her grief's about!
With the moon-light, grey and dreary,
Long ere waketh bird or bee,
Mary stands, with spirit weary,
Gazing out upon the sea.
There, until the west sun gloweth,
Lists she to each breeze that blows;
But the wind, though much it knoweth,
Telleth no one what it knows,—
No one—no one—what it knows.
On a coast forlorn, forsaken,
Dug by hard and hasty hands,
Near a low cross, rudely shapen,
Rests a grave upon the sands!
Never wing of bird comes near it,
Nothing but the billow's roar;
And a voice—the night stars hear it—
Sighing, 'Mary, never more!
Still, until the west sun gloweth,
Mary lists each breeze that blows;
But the wind, though much it knoweth,
Telleth no one what it knows,—
No one—no one—what it knows."

It is in no indulgence of nibbling criticism, but simply in the desire of congruity and completeness, that we suggest that

"Rests a grave upon the sands"

is very faulty, both as to the notion of a grave upon anything, and as to the possible continuance of a mound of sand where "the billows roar." We like Charles Swain so well, that we cannot but grieve over the little imperfections and oversights that too often mar his best things.

"The British Press" is rhymed discourse—and very sensible; but we prefer even such a trifle as "Round the Corner"—a village girl's protest against her lover's hanging about for her so as to provoke evil tongues. "Help each other," "The Charities of Life," and "Good Advice," belong to a class of simple verse—verse of counsel—in which the author excels, and which his well-known "Be kind to each other" best represents. "Torquato Tasso" has been well-studied, and is spirited and emphatic in expression. There are many songs; but those having a single thought, and that the simplest, and touched lightly and playfully, are by far the best: and we prefer "Not to Night," "Will he come?" and "Wait till I put on my bonnet," to others having loftier subjects and more ambitious character. The "Hymn to the Cross" has noble features, and will probably be hereafter found in collections of the sacred poetry of our time, and the subject is one of which all Christian poets should sing, according to their gift.

It will be known to our readers, we presume, that Charles Swain—like Ebenezer Elliott,

though but in this sole respect—is not wholly devoted to literature; but is engaged in an active life of business at Manchester. To this he refers in the lines placed on his title-page.

"Shall Indolence enchant the poet's lyre,
Yet Industry awake no kindred song?
Spirit of Commerce, hear! thy son inspire,
Show him thy seas, where masts, like forests, throng;
Thy sails each breeze of heaven impels along,
An universal presence o'er the tide!
Tell him where'er mankind hath heard thy tongue,
Intelligence hath march'd with rapid stride,
And mental freedom sprung rejoicing at thy side!"

The lines spring from the sincerity and high-minded purpose with which the author lives his business life, if they have not the best graces of the song with which he refines and beautifies it. We shall willingly listen to the serious lyric which stands as "Finis" to this manly-hearted and Christianly-pure volume.

"Life's not our own—'tis but a loan—
To be repaid!
Soon the dark comer's at the door,
The debt is due—the dream is o'er—
Life's but a shade!"

"Thus all decline—that bloom or shine—
Both star and flower;
'Tis but a little odour shed—
A light gone out—a spirit fled—
A funeral hour!"

"Then let us show a tranquil brow,
Whate'er befalls;
That we upon Life's latest brink,
May look on Death's dark face, and think
An Angel calls!"

BRIEF NOTICES.

Life, its Nature, Varieties, and Phenomena. By LEO H. GRINDON. Third edition. (London: F. Pitman.) Mr. Grindon's work has been several years before the world. It has been very differently received, according as its readers were inclined to prefer for such a subject, either the rigid technicalities of science, or the development of its practical interest and the glow of its poetry. The author has great and varied scientific attainments,—probably not always reaching the minute accuracy that distinguishes men who cultivate single departments, but generally trustworthy and of wide range. Still more is he eminently endowed with insight and spirituality, with poetical feeling and a choice utterance. So that his book, which takes up all the chief points of physiology and psychology, which speculates on the invisible and enters into the presence of the Divine, which regards man as the archetype of the entire system of living things, and attempts to ascertain the principles of a true doctrine concerning him as a key to the principles of Natural History in all its departments, is altogether one of the most original, in conception and character, that has ever been produced in our time. It has a strange charm, it attracts to further study, it leaves strong and valuable impressions. It is full of earnest conviction, and very reverent and devout in spirit. Yet we must admit, that it produces no whole impression on the mind, and that it teaches but little definite truth. We suppose the book to have chiefly a religious purpose, to which a cultivated and faithful man bends all human knowledge. If read with willingness to receive all the influences of the author's wisdom, genius, and piety, rather than with the hope of making measurable progress in the scientific knowledge of life, the book will be most refreshingly delightful, purifying, and practically helpful in many ways: and we ourselves have derived such true pleasure and such serviceable suggestion from its many-coloured but harmonious pages, that we readily forget a thousand-and-one differences from the author's opinion—often peculiar, and with more leaning to mysticism than to logic—and warmly commend it to all meditative and genial souls, as worthy to become a choice and cherished friend.—

Life in a Risen Saviour. By R. S. CANDLISH, D.D. Third edition. Carefully revised. (Edinburgh: A. and L. Black.) Having noticed this work at the time of its first publication, it is only needful now to remind our readers that its object is not to expound exegetically the chapter (1 Corinthians xv.) on which it is founded, but to illustrate the line of argument there pursued. In Dr. Candlish's opinion that argument is not about the resurrection generally; but a particular view of the resurrection, drawn from the oneness of Christ and His believing people, and its bearing on the believer's spiritual and eternal life. The author has used a popular mode of address, while following keenly the line of reasoning and treating his subject as a logical whole. This edition has been carefully revised and corrected, and may be considered as perfect as the author can make it. Though there are many questionable points in his interpretation, there will be no denial that Dr. Candlish has displayed great force of mind and rich resource of language; and that this is his ablest and most valuable production. It is curious to see so solid a work, on so grave a subject, illustrated with an allegorical frontispiece, and a landscape vignette.—*Outlines of Moral Philosophy.* By DUGALD STEWART. With Memoir, Supplement, and Questions by JAMES M'COSH, LL.D. (W. Allan and Co.) Dr. M'Cosh says truly of this well-known and valuable little work, that "in this treatise the author has compressed his thoughts, so characterised by the ripeness of wisdom, within as 'brief a compass as is consistent with clearness,' and

that this clearness is "a pre-eminent excellence of the book." We agree with him, also, that "it is one of the best text-books of mental and moral science ever written: it has not been superseded; it has not even become antiquated." A brief, discriminating memoir by the editor is prefixed. A small but highly valuable series of Supplementary Notes takes up some of the more prominent questions which have been discussed by such writers as Kant, Hamilton, and Mill. A few of the subjects are, the various forms of the ideal theory of sense-perception, the relativity of knowledge, intuition, different theories of the nature of the moral faculty, theistic arguments, moral evil, and the utilitarian theory of morals. On "the Infinite," Dr. M'Cosh maintains that we have an intuitive conviction, "vastly less than is claimed by Schelling, or even by Cousin, but vastly more than is allowed by Hamilton and Mansel." The editor has done everything necessary to give this admirable manual permanence as a class-book in colleges, and to extend its usefulness. It has never before been produced in so handsome a form.—*The Book of Sacred Song*. Selected from British Poets. With a Preface by the Rev. CHARLES KEMBLE, M.A. (Secley, Jackson, and Halliday.) Contains sacred pieces from our best poets, and from some less known, yet having peculiar merits; arranged chronologically from the reign of Elizabeth to the present day. The compiler has shown good taste and evangelical catholic feeling. But there is some deficiency of knowledge. Had the editor known early editions of the late Mrs. Browning's works, some pieces would have been found more suitable to the design of the work than those included—e.g., "When Jesus' friend had ceased to be," &c., and "How high Thou art," &c. And again, there is a piece of Bernard Barton's inserted as Anonymous; as is, also, one of Miss Waring's, notwithstanding that there are four others given with her name. The compiler seems not to have gone to the original works always from which the selections are made. As to intrinsic excellence, however, the book may be unreservedly commended; and it is produced with all the beauty that the typographer's art can secure.—*The Foundations of our Faith*. Ten Papers read before a Mixed Audience of Men. By Professors AUBERLEN, GESS, and others. (Strahan and Co.) The contents of this volume require to be stated—they are, "What is Faith?" by Professor Riggenbach; "Nature or God?" by Wolfgang Gess; "Sin," by Ernst Stähelin; the "Old Testament Dispensation and the Heathen World," by Auberlen; the "Person of Jesus Christ," by Riggenbach; "Christ's Atonement for Sin," by Gess; the "Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus," by Auberlen; the "Holy Spirit and the Church," by S. Preiswerk; the "Doctrine of Justification by Faith," by Dr. Stockmeyer; and "The Future—Immortality, and Eternal Life," by Stähelin. The subjects follow the order in which they are presented in the Apostles' Creed; and while each lecturer treats his theme with the greatest completeness possible, the systematic and progressive connection between the topics is not lost sight of. The book sprang from a conviction of the authors that neither the ordinary instruction of the pulpit, nor the religious education of the young, meets the peculiar and urgent requirement of the time. They desire to serve those in whose secret consciousness doubts have arisen, or perplexed questions which find no answer, under the influence either of a bold historical criticism, or of the new discoveries of science, or of the general spirit of the times. They recognise that with many "since these doubts have arisen they are far more in earnest, both as regards morality and even piety, than in the days when they held a traditional faith lifelessly though implicitly"; and they have spoken as those who, calmly convinced of the truths they teach, need neither to declaim nor to impute evil motives to minds that have become uncertain, restless, and unhappy. They desire those who listen to them to remember that they "cannot take their convictions by storm"; and that "the maturing of religious faith must necessarily be progressive." Writing for men of other habitudes of thought than those of Englishmen, the authors in several cases pursue a method that does not commend itself as the very best for general readers amongst ourselves; and present doctrines in some forms that we think might be improved upon by a judicious writer for our own more thoughtful people. But in substance the work is of the most genuine worth—the theology orthodox in a large sense, the spirit pervading it candid and fervent, and the sense of the practical bearings of the subjects lively and comprehensive. As a discussion of the foundation questions of Christianity relative to the tendencies of modern thought, we know nothing that can compare with this work for completeness, wisdom, and power.—*Bygone Days in Our Village*. By J. L. W. (Edinburgh: Oliphant and Co.) A series of Scottish sketches depending for their interest, not on startling incidents or the portraiture of remarkable characters, but on the faithful delineation of the common life of a quiet rural district "where the manners and customs of the past lingered in much of their original simplicity, long after they were banished from the crowded city." It has the air of truth, is pervaded by a fine human feeling, is often truly pathetic, and is always pleasant for graceful naturalness and touching piety. A very commendable book, especially for the elder young people.—*Baptism and the Eucharist*. By JOHN RAWLINGS. (A. W. Bennett.) The author's

purpose is to give "a history of the origin of the mysteries and doctrines of Baptism and the Eucharist as introduced into the Church of Rome and the Church of England, and their Jewish and Heathen origin delineated in profane and ecclesiastical history, general councils, canon laws, and ecclesiastical constitutions, from the days of the Apostles to the present time, and compared with the sacred Scriptures as the standard of truth." That's his title-page. In the preface he tells us that the work "has been the labour of a life—the product of much thought and of forty years' patient and unwearying research." We are unfeignedly sorry for it. His book is an indescribable medley. He has not mastered his materials. He does not even comprehend the subject. He tells us at the outset that "the sacramental efficacy of water baptism and the Eucharist" is a "portion of the creed of the Roman and Anglican Churches, and, to a greater or smaller extent, of most forms of Protestant Dissent." This is exceedingly incorrect, if the writer uses the words "sacramental efficacy" in the sense they bear outside the circle of Friends. We profoundly respect his earnest purpose, his laboriousness, and his desire to be faithful to Christ. But we must evacuate all our knowledge, sacrifice our understanding, and, above all, renounce the guidance of the spiritual intuitions which are more than both these, before we can admit that this book contains an argument or is distinguished by religious wisdom.—*Meditations on Life and its Religious Duties*. Translated from the German by FREDERICA ROWAN. (Trübner and Co.) This is a companion volume to the "Meditations on Death and Eternity," published under the sanction of her Majesty; and has the same characteristics as that work,—much quiet, deep reflectiveness, much elegant sentiment, and, in a sense, much devout feeling; but it is utterly destitute of what we think the essential truths of Christianity, and of the essential faith of a Christian. It has no more theology than that, "in Christ the Deity revealed himself to mankind wonderfully, as in all His works"—and that, "Peace in Jesus is the glorification on earth of the human spirit by its own endeavours and through the power of faith, that is to say of the religion of Jesus." One must deplore that this is the form of religion that has favour in the palace—this volume is published by her Majesty's permission, and dedicated to the Princess Alice,—and, with dutiful reverence for the Sovereign and her family, one may well desire and pray that her Chaplains, both English and Scotch, may so present "the glorious Gospel of the blessed God," that all this cold and pale religionism may appear unsatisfying, mean, and false, in the presence of the holy sacrifice, the personal love, and the reconciling activity of the Redeeming God.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Recreations of a Country Parson, 2nd Series, Cheap Edition; Effie Campbell and Other Poems, by Joseph Truman; Lyra Domestica, 2nd Series: Longman and Co. Sandie's Horeb and Jerusalem: Edmonstone and Douglas. Guthrie's Ezekiel: A. and C. Black. Grosart's Prince of Light, &c.: Nisbet and Co. Shairp's Kilmahoe and other poems: Macmillan. Howell's Jesus All and in All: Book Society. Davie's Preparation of Microscopic Objects: Hardwicke. Ephraim Holding's Sunday-school Illustrations, by Old Humphrey; S. W. Partridge. Guthrie's Platform Sayings: Houlston. Meikle's Battle of Armageddon: Ward and Co. Robertson's Sermons: E. T. Whitfield. Maokay's Studies from the Antique: Virtue Brothers. Anthems for Congregational Worship: T. Haddon. Morton's Family Circle: Oliphant and Co. Temple's Domestic Altar: John Snow. Dr. Guernsey's Homeopathic Domestic Practice: H. Turner and Co. Wayside Thoughts; Emily Faithfull and Co. Functional Diseases of Women, by Dr. Chapman: Trübner and Co. Cowper's Works, Part I.: Tweedie.

MAGAZINES, &c.—Fraser's; Cornhill; Quarterly Journal of Science; Leisure Hour; Sunday at Home; Good Words; Christian Work; Events of the Month; Social Science Review; Educator; Young England; Blackie and Sons' Imperial Bible Dictionary, Part 8; Blackwood; Rainbow; Bromley Lecture Hall Chronicle; Every Boy's Magazine; Church of England; Baptist Reporter; London University Calendar, 1864; parcel from Cassell and Co.; Christian Observer.

LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND ART.

Miss Braddon, the novelist, was recently married to Mr. Maxwell, the publisher.

Mrs. S. C. Hall is about to commence a periodical for girls, with the assistance of writers and artists who have already won favour with the young.

The Macaulay memorial for Trinity College, Cambridge, is nearly finished by Mr. Woolner. The historian is seated in his college gown, with a book in his hand—the fingers pressed into the open leaves, as if he had been collecting points in an argument.

Mr. Maclise is painting a picture representing the scene described by Sir Walter Scott in "Ivanhoe," of the meeting of King Richard the First with Robin Hood and the outlaws. This will probably appear at the forthcoming Royal Academy Exhibition.

EXPORT OF BOOKS.—The export of English books to the States of America fell from 140,000*l.* worth in 1859 to less than half that value in 1861, and the returns now published show that in 1862 it was little over 50,000*l.* The export to Australia has also fallen off considerably; in 1859 it exceeded 126,000*l.*, in 1861 it was but 110,000*l.*, in 1862 only 97,000*l.* The value of our books exported in the year 1860 was as high as 494,845*l.*; in 1861 it fell to 445,358*l.*,

and in 1862 to 415,203*l.*; but in the first 11 months of 1863 it had recovered to 408,957*l.* Our imports of books in 1862 were of the value of 101,053*l.*

THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF IRELAND AND INAUGURATION OF THE DARGAN TESTIMONIAL.—Two interesting ceremonies took place on Saturday, in the grounds in connection with the Royal Dublin Society—on the opening of the National Gallery of Ireland, and concurrently with it the inauguration of a statue to William Dargan, Esq. The statue was unveiled by the Lord-Lieutenant.

THE SHAKESPEARE TERCENTENARY.—The National Committee invite suggestions from "artists and others," relative to the proposed monument, prior to a general meeting of the committee to be held on Friday next. The Stratford committee for celebrating the tercentenary of the birth of Shakespeare, of which Mr. Flower, Mayor of Stratford, is chairman, announce that they have opened a London office at No. 2, Exeter Hall, Strand, W.C., for the receipt of subscriptions in aid of the objects of the festival, and where information as to the general arrangements may from time to time be obtained. The celebration will last a week, and include—Grand banquet, the Earl of Carlisle, K.G., in the chair; grand performance of the "Messiah"; a miscellaneous concert, with Shakspearian music; and dramatic performances and readings, the festival concluding with a fancy dress ball. The profits of the festival, together with subscriptions, are to be devoted to the endowment of scholarships in the Free Grammar School (founded by Edward VI.), wherein Shakspeare was educated, and for the erection of a memorial to the poet in his native town. The names of all contributors will be recorded on sheets of vellum, which will be bound in volumes, and kept as a permanent record in the house wherein Shakspeare was born at Stratford-upon-Avon.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT ROME.—The excavations in the Palace of the Cæsars continue, but the progress is very slow. Still, discoveries of marbles, sculptured and bearing fragments of inscriptions, are daily made, not lately of any great importance, but sufficient to confirm the belief that the whole of the vast mass known as the Palace of the Cæsars was covered by structures. Nothing thoroughly effective will, however, be accomplished until the large nunnery known formerly as the Villa Palatina is removed; but this good work is not likely to be accomplished at present. The excavations beneath San Clemente are also progressing, and there is now no doubt that the underground church was much larger than the present more modern edifice. But nothing has yet been discovered to throw light on the circumstances connected with the burial, as it may be called, of the subterranean church, probably the earliest Christian basilica in Rome. The latest frescoes disinterred represent the body of St. Cyril borne by four men to his grave in San Clemente. The saint is represented with the episcopal insignia richly gemmed, and nimbus-crowned. On one side is a group of bishops, on the other the Pope blessing the assemblage. The Irish Dominicans, to whom the church and convent of San Clemente belong, are delighted by the discovery of this fresco.—*Correspondent of Athenæum*.

Court, Official, and Personal News.

The Queen of Denmark and her eldest daughter are expected to the christening of the infant Prince, whose first two names will be Albert and Victor.

The *Court Journal* contains this interesting statement:—"It is the intention of her Majesty to hold all levées and drawing-rooms herself during the ensuing season, but to reside at Windsor Castle, merely coming up to London when necessary for State occasions."

On Sunday morning the Queen, Princess Helena, Princess Louise, Prince Leopold, and Princess Hohenlohe attended Divine service at Whippingham Church. The Rev. G. Prothero officiated.

A Privy Council will be held to-day, to decide upon the Speech from the Throne.

Westfield, Sir Augustus Clifford's seat in the Isle of Wight, has been taken for a month as a residence for the King of the Belgians.

Professor Tyndall has had the honour of delivering two lectures on electricity before her Majesty and the Royal Family.

It is most probable the University of Cambridge will be honoured with a State visit from the Prince and Princess of Wales in the course of the ensuing May term.

The *Poole Herald* has the following:—

HER MAJESTY AT PARKHURST PRISON.—On Friday last her Majesty spent some considerable time in going over this Government prison, the major part of which is occupied by female convicts, and the other part by boy convicts. Attached to the females' prison is a nursery for the children born of convicts since their conviction, and in that department her Majesty remained for some little time. On Monday the Hon. Mrs. Bruce drove to the prison with a present from her Majesty, quite a load of toys for the nursery.

On Thursday the Queen visited the Netley Military Hospital, and remained in the building, inspecting the various sick wards, about an hour.

Earl and Countess Russell and the Earl and Countess of Derby have been on a visit to the Queen. Her Majesty, with the members of the Royal family now at Osborne, will return to Windsor on Friday next, for the season.

Cabinet Councils were held on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Monday. All the Ministers were present except the Duke of Newcastle, who still continues in a delicate state of health, and by the advice

of his medical attendants his Grace has been absent from these Cabinet Councils.

There has been an abundance of "sensation" rumours during the week. One of them is thus disposed of by the *Morning Post* of Friday:—

Strong gusts of rumour blew about town on Thursday. Lord Russell had resigned. The Ministry were out. Gossipmongers were ready with minute details. All this disturbance of the political atmosphere seems to be based upon two very simple facts. Lord Russell has returned from Osborne. Lord Derby has gone on a visit to the Queen. All the rest of the story is pure nonsense. There is no crisis; the Cabinet is acting in perfect harmony, and the Ministry is "as well as can be expected."

The *Herald*, however, after treating the resignation as an accomplished fact, declares that it was tendered, and the Cabinet Council postponed in consequence, but it adds, "the division in the Cabinet is now temporarily adjusted."

The *Army and Navy Gazette*, in allusion to the startling announcements of preparations for war, says that, up to the present moment, the principal work of the War Office has been to work up its ordinary estimates for Parliament, with an especial view to combine economy with efficiency, while the Horse Guards is in its usually placid condition.

The military authorities at Portsmouth received instructions on Saturday to make the necessary arrangements for the influx of troops, apparently preparatory to their embarkation from that port.

The Royal infant is in good health, and should all go on well it is expected that the christening of the young Prince will take place at Buckingham Palace, probably on or about the 10th of March, the first anniversary of the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales. The Prince and Princess are expected at Marlborough House about Feb. 15. On Monday afternoon her Royal Highness the Princess of Wales took a carriage drive for the first time since her confinement. Accompanied by a lady-in-waiting, she left Frogmore House in a close carriage and pair, and drove through the Long Walk to the statue of George III. on Snow-hill—a distance of three miles. Her Royal Highness returned to Frogmore after about an hour's ride.

The Address in answer to the Speech from the Throne will be moved in the House of Lords by the Marquis of Sligo, and be seconded by Lord Abercromby. The *Observer* does not consider it likely that any amendment will be moved in either House.

A deputation on the subject of the slave-trade had an interview with Lord Palmerston on Wednesday at Cambridge House. The deputation consisted of the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M.P.; Sir Minto Farquhar, Bart., M.P.; Sir Joshua Rowe, Mr. Henry Baillie, M.P.; Mr. C. Buxton, M.P.; Mr. Cave, M.P.; Mr. H. Davidson, Mr. C. Marryat, Mr. Shakespeare, Mr. Macgregor, Mr. Bryce Watson, and Mr. J. Gurney Hoare.

The Earl and Countess Russell entertained at dinner, on Friday, at their residence in Chesham-place, Prince Gortschakoff; the Danish Minister; the Swedish Minister; Lord Stanley, M.P.; the Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Gladstone and Miss Lyttelton; Sir Edwin Landseer, Mr. Charles Dickens, Mr. William Harcourt, Mr. George Elliot, &c. Later in the evening the Countess Russell received a small party of friends.

It is reported that the honour of knighthood is in store for Mr. Maguire, M.P., on the occasion of his Excellency the Lord-Lieutenant's coming visit to Cork, to inaugurate the statue to the late Father Mathew. It is the general opinion that no public man in this country is more deserving of being so honoured.—*Belfast Whig*.

It is asserted that Sir John Lawrence will be raised to the peerage.

The Maharajah Dhuleep Singh, before quitting England for Madras, caused the body of his late mother to be removed from its temporary resting-place at Kensal-green, and transported for due funeral rites to the land of the Maharane's faith and birth.

We are glad to hear it reported that Surgeon Turnbull is not to be put upon half-pay, but will be allowed to exchange into some other regiment.—*Medical Times*.

Law and Police.

THE LAST OF THE SWINFEN CASE?—Mr. Kennedy, who won the suit of Mrs. Swinfen in the famous Swinfen case, has been again beaten by her in the Chancery Courts. She executed a deed drawn by himself, giving to him, as a reward for his services, the Swinfen estates after her death. Since then she has married a Mr. Broun, and repudiates the deed. The Master of the Rolls held that the deed was invalid on several grounds, and Mr. Kennedy appealed to the Lords Justices. They delivered judgment on Friday, confirming the decision of the Master of the Rolls, and ordering Mr. Kennedy to pay the costs.

THE YELVERTON CASE.—An application was made to the Court of Common Pleas on Saturday, in the well-known case of *Thelwall v. Yelverton*, that the service of a copy of the declaration and notice to plead on the London agents of the defendant's Edinburgh solicitors might be deemed good service, as the defendant had left the country and could not be served personally. It seems that Major Yelverton is keeping out of the way, to avoid payment of the debt and costs in the action tried in Dublin. The judges refused to make the order, on the ground that it had not been shown that due diligence had been exercised in endeavouring to find Major Yelverton.

THE ALEXANDRA CASE.—This case is set down for argument in the Court of Error on Saturday next. The following judges will preside—Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, Justices Crompton, Blackburn, and Mellor, from the Court of Queen's Bench, and Lord Chief Justice Erle, Justices Williams, Willes, and Byles, from the Court of Common Pleas.

THE DIVORCE SCANDAL.—The case *O'Kane v. O'Kane* and Lord Palmerston was mentioned in the Divorce Court yesterday. The petitioner had been called upon to file further particulars of the allegations which he made in his petition. Instead of doing so his solicitor has filed an affidavit containing a letter from the petitioner announcing that the suit has been compromised, and that all proceedings are stayed. Under these circumstances the further hearing of the case was deferred to Thursday in order to enable the co-respondent to determine what course he would pursue.

THE FOREIGN ENLISTMENT ACT.—It will be remembered that Mr. Rumble, a naval inspector of machinery at Sheerness, was lately apprehended on a charge of having procured men to enter for the Confederate service on board her Majesty's ship *Soylla*, which had been sold out of her Majesty's service, and when taken out to sea was re-christened the *Rappahannock* of the Confederate States navy. The case was on Tuesday taken before the magistrates, in petty sessions, at Sittingbourne, and was fully gone into; after which it was remitted to a higher court, and Mr. Rumble was liberated on bail.

A SHAM PRINCE OF WALES.—On Friday, at the Marlborough-street Police-court, a man, who had refused his name and address, was charged before Mr. Knox with breaking a pane of glass, of the value of 8s., in the shop-window of Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, whip-makers to the Royal family, 185, Piccadilly. When the prisoner was asked his name, he replied—I am George Albert Charles, Prince of Wales. Edward Borley, assistant to Messrs. Swaine and Adeney, said:—Yesterday afternoon the prisoner broke two of our windows with two bricks. The prisoner on being asked if he wished to say anything, said: My explanation is that on the previous evening I told them to take the boards out of their window about the Prince of Wales (the letters of appointment), as I had never sanctioned the things to be given out. As they refused to remove the boards, I broke the window. I have given notice to all the members of Parliament as to my claim, and I am now waiting for an answer from Palmerston, Grey, or some of them, to know whether I am to have the money and the principedom, or Edward. Mr. Knox: Who is Edward? Prisoner: The Prince of Wales. There was a second charge against the prisoner for breaking a pane of glass at Mr. Leuchar's. Mr. Knox remanded the prisoner for a week. It was subsequently stated that the man's name is "Hosier."

Miscellaneous News.

THE GREAT EASTERN has been dismantled, and her stores are now being disposed of, under the authority of the High-Sheriff of Lancashire, to satisfy the claims of one of the detaining creditors. There is a host of writs out against the unfortunate ship, and it is doubtful whether the proceeds of her sale will satisfy the various creditors and mortgagees.

CITY OF LONDON SCHOOL.—The Senior Wrangler-ship of the University of Cambridge has this year again been won by a pupil of the City of London School and a citizen of London, Mr. Henry John Purkiss, son of the late Mr. John Purkiss, of Little Distaff-lane. This is the second instance within four years in which the same high university distinction has been gained by a scholar of this seminary, a circumstance which is said to be unprecedented in the history of any other public school.

THE PEABODY GIFT.—Mr. Peabody's munificent gift to the poor of London is shortly to bear fruit. A building has been erected in Bethnal Green, at a cost of 22,000l., somewhat on the plan of the model lodging-houses, for the accommodation of the poor, who are already so anxious to get into it, though the rent of the rooms will be from two to three and five shillings a-week, that the committee are driven to make a selection from the number of applicants.—*Spectator*.

MUTILATED BY LIONS.—A serious accident occurred at the Agricultural Hall, Islington, on Thursday. It appears that Mr. Crockett's lions are at present exhibiting there, and on Thursday one of the keepers went near the den, when his hand was seized by one of the lions, and his arm by another. The other assistants came to his rescue, but it was not until the lions had been nearly blinded by blows that the poor fellow was liberated. His arm was so severely lacerated, that it had to be amputated.

CRIME IN LONDON.—It is asserted, on good authority, that there are, in the metropolis, 16,000 children trained to crime, 15,000 men living by low gambling, 50,000 by constant thieving, 5,000 receivers of stolen goods, and 150,000 men and women subsisting by other disgraceful means. There are not fewer than 25,000 beggars. So that there are more than 250,000 persons in the London district, of all ages and sexes, who prey upon the honest and industrious part of the community.—*Mr. Goodwin's "Another Blow for Life."*

THE REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S QUARTERLY RETURN.—The general result of the quarterly returns is

favourable. The marriage-rate was above the average during the first nine months of the last year for which we have returns, and it is well known that they afford a good indication of the opinions which the people themselves have of their prospects in life. The births are returned for the last quarter of the year, and greatly exceed the average, while the deaths are also above the average, but to a much less extent. The birth-rate of the year 1863 is the highest that has been observed in England, and the rate of mortality, owing chiefly to the prevalence of fever and of scarlatina, is also higher than is usual.

THE PAPER-MAKERS AND THE GOVERNMENT.—A deputation of paper-makers waited on the President of the Board of Trade on Friday, to represent to him the evil consequences of the continuance of the export duty on rags in foreign countries. Mr. Milner Gibson seemed inclined to dispute the gloomy view which the paper-makers took of the prospects of their trade, and quoted the increased number of licences that had been taken out for the manufacture last year as compared with the year preceding. He admitted, however, that the continuance of a high export duty on rags by foreign Governments was a fair subject of complaint by our own manufacturers, for which the Government would do its best to procure them redress. He stated that the Italian Government had, within the last few days, abolished the duty on the exportation of rags, a piece of news which appeared to be new even to those engaged in the Italian rag-trade.

A VILLAGE SMITTEN WITH DISEASE.—Lady Pasley sends the *Times* an extract of a letter from her sister, describing the present case of the fishing village of Beer, near Axminster, "literally plague-stricken with measles. . . . The village altogether is like a thing you dream of. The mothers themselves look like hungry wolves, without a feeling left for their dead children. I have only seen one woman crying, until I said a kind word, such as, 'The summer is coming, and better times, please God,' and then they sob as if they would go into hysterics from weakness. In one den to-day there were six children lying before the fireplace, and I asked the woman if they were hungry. 'No,' she said, 'thank God they are not so hungry as I am, for I have nothing to give them. I could eat the table-board.' . . . These poor children die in the dark, and the mothers have to watch for daylight to see them, not having a candle in the house." Local efforts are being made for the relief of this afflicted people, and Lady Pasley appeals for more help. In a subsequent letter she says that the public have responded so liberally, that all the assistance needed has been furnished.

SHOCKING DEATH OF A DISSENTING MINISTER.—The Rev. A. Blackburn, of To morden, was killed on Thursday, while crossing the railway, at Mutton-hole, a little below Eastwood station. He had been to a place higher up, and was returning home. An express train had just gone down when Mr. Blackburn attempted to make the crossing. It was raining at the time, and he had his umbrella up, which he so held that his face might be protected from the full force of the wind; he was therefore unable to see whether there was anything on the higher side of the line, as the wind blew from that direction. A luggage-train which had been "shunted" to allow the express train (12.20) to pass, had just started, and got about half-speed when the engine struck Mr. Blackburn's side; the unfortunate gentleman quickly seized hold of the buffers, but the next moment he was struck on the face and fell. The engine was stopped almost immediately after; indeed, the driver had observed Mr. Blackburn's danger before he was struck, and he whistled and put on the brakes, but deceased did not appear to hear it. The engine was a low-tendered one, and the deceased was consequently frightfully mangled. His legs were bent and twisted in many ways, his face greatly disfigured,—in fact, he had to be "gathered" up. He was placed upon a board, and carried by some platelayers to his home, which is near the place. Mr. Blackburn was minister of the Congregational chapel, Eastwood. He had been in the ministry more than forty years.—*Leeds Mercury*.

WORKING MEN'S CLUBS AND INSTITUTES.—The Home Secretary has written a letter consenting, in consequence of an application from the council of the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, to authorise the endowment of these valuable associations under the provisions of the "Friendly Societies Act," whereby they will acquire the privilege of appointing trustees without the expense of a trust-deed, and all those powers necessary to the protection of their property, of which, without such enrolment, they are destitute.—On Monday night a very crowded public meeting was held in the large school-room, Amwell-street, Clerkenwell, in support of the Working Men's Club in the locality. The meeting was presided over by Samuel Morley, Esq. Mr. Winter, honorary secretary, read a brief report as to the origin and progress of the club, which now numbers 100 paying members. Samuel Morley, Esq., said it gave him great pleasure to take part in the proceedings. The movement had his most hearty sympathy; it was, in his opinion, a movement which enabled working men to help themselves. It was most lamentable that the working classes were being lowered, and he hailed this as a movement which would make them look up, and eventually raise them to a higher level. In these days men, and especially working men, needed to become better acquainted with each other, and the club would afford its members an opportunity of so doing. He did not wish to say too much about politics, but

he was one who believed in the necessity of a considerable extension of the franchise. (Hear, hear.) But there were conditions which the working men must fulfil; they must be educated and endeavour to attain a higher state of religious and moral culture, and Government would be the sooner ready to concede the demands of thinking men who knew what they wanted than of unthinking enthusiasts. The speaker concluded amid much applause. Amongst the other speakers were the Rev. Robert Maguire, incumbent of Clerkenwell; Sir S. Morton Peto, Bart., M.P.; Mr. G. Clark on behalf of the union; Colonel Colville, Governor of Coldbath-fields Prison; and resolutions in accordance with the objects of the meeting were unanimously adopted.

Gleanings.

Captain Paton, of the Great Eastern, has had her arrested for 2,000L.

Monday week was the 105th anniversary of the birth of the poet Robert Burns.

"See what I am!" not "see what my father was!" is an old and excellent Arabic saying.

Why is a dull and plausible man like an unrifled gun?—Because he is a smooth bore.

Thirty editors and printers were among the killed and wounded at Chickamauga.—*American Paper.*

Sir Henry Havelock is now in New Zealand with his regiment, the 18th. He was enthusiastically received by his soldiers.

Colonel M'Murdo has estimated the increase of last year's volunteers over that of the year before at 12,000.

Twenty-five thousand persons are engaged in Peru in obtaining india-rubber to supply the foreign demand.

A lady, in advertising for a servant-girl in a newspaper, says:—"Hoops are objected to, and so is a want of cleanliness."

Prejudices are like rats, and a man's mind like a trap; they get in easily, and then, perhaps, can't get out at all.

Tom Hood says nothing spoils a holiday like a Sunday coat, or a new pair of boots. To have time sit easy, your garments must set the example.

"My name," said a gentleman, "is composed of seven letters; but take the first two away, and there will remain eight." His name was "Speight."

The first white person born in Ohio is still living—Johanna Maria Heckewelder. She is the daughter of a Moravian missionary, is eighty-three years of age, and resides at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.

A 'oute Yankee advertises for a situation as son-in-law in a respectable family. Would have no objection, he says, to go either abroad or into the provinces.

A person of the name of Frost having by mistake left on the counter of a banking-house a sum of money he had just drawn, the head clerk called to one of his subordinates, "Hail Mr. Frost, he's mist his due."

LADIES AS GOVERNMENT CLERKS.—The custom of employing ladies as clerks in the public departments at Washington is meeting with increased favour. It is said that, generally speaking, they write more correctly than the men, and as they receive much smaller salaries, the gain to the Government is considerable.—*American Paper.*

A BIG PUFF.—A model certificate is the following:—"Dear Doctor,—I will be one hundred and seventy-five years old next October. For over eighty-four years I have been an invalid, unable to step except when moved by a lever. But a year ago I heard of the Granicular Syrup. I bought a bottle, smelt the cork, and found myself a man. I can now run twelve miles and a half an hour, and throw nineteen somersaults without stopping."—*American Paper.*

ALBERT SMITH AND THACKERAY.—The "Lounger at the Clubs," writing in the *Illustrated Times*, says:—"I came across the following in a lady's album the other day:—

Mont Blanc is the monarch of mountains,
They crown'd him long ago;
But who they got to put it on
Nobody seems to know.—ALBERT SMITH.

I know that Albert wrote in hurry,
To criticise I scarce presume;
But yet methinks that Lindley Murray
Instead of 'who' had written whom.

W. M. THACKERAY.

THE FRENCHMAN'S DIFFICULTY.—The *Opinion Nationale* publishes the world's obituary for 1863, and informs its readers that England has lost, among other worthies:—"Maurice Lansdowne, ex-Chancellor of the Exchequer, President of the Cabinet and of the Privy Council"; "Sir Taton Syke"; "Sir George Cornwall Lewis"; and the "poet and composer, Ch. Glow," author of "Jeannette and Jeanot."—In addition to those losses, we have to deplore the death, according to the *Opinion*, of "Augustus Leopold Heg," a distinguished painter. The last two names are incomparably ingenious transformations of Charles Glover and Augustus Egg!

THE PRESIDENT'S LAST.—The "President's last" must be recorded. Its omission would be unpardonable:—"A gentleman, recently from Richmond, called at the White House a few days since, and, in an interview with Mr. Lincoln, said there were Union men and Union prisoners enough in the rebel capital to take the town at any time. He advised that Meade's army be employed to divert Lee, while Butler was sent to attack Richmond with a thou-

sand men. This reminded the President of a story he once heard out in Illinois. There was a theological seminary a short distance from town, and a small stream had to be crossed, on a bridge, to get at it. The creek overflowed occasionally and carried it away. The theologians called a meeting to see if they could not find an architect who would build a permanent bridge—one that could resist the flood, and would not be swept away every year. One brother said he knew of such a man, and sent for him immediately. He replied, with great emphasis, that he 'could build a bridge clear to hell, if paid enough.' The theologians, highly indignant, immediately dismissed him from their presence, and the brother who had introduced him was called to apologise for him. 'I am sorry for the offence he gave you, brethren,' said he, 'but he is a good architect, and I really believe he could build a bridge to the place he spoke of, but I wouldn't be so sure of the abutment on the other side.' So it was with the Unionists in Richmond. Lincoln believed Butler was a very good officer, but he had some doubt about the other end of the story. He wasn't so sure about the Union abutment in Richmond."—*American Paper.*

BANK OF ENGLAND.

(From Friday's Gazette.)

An Account, pursuant to the Act 7th and 8th Victoria, cap. 32, for the week ending Wednesday, Jan. 27.

ISSUE DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Notes issued .. | £27,001,010 | Government Debt | £11,015,100 |
| | | Other Securities .. | 3,634,900 |
| | | Gold Coin & Bullion | 12,351,010 |
| | £27,001,010 | | £27,001,010 |

BANKING DEPARTMENT.

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Proprietors' Capital | £14,553,000 | Government Securities | £11,077,189 |
| Reserve | 3,419,971 | Other Securities .. | 19,843,260 |
| Public Deposits | 6,337,246 | Notes | 6,713,935 |
| Other Deposits | 13,406,627 | Gold & Silver Coin | 671,210 |
| Seven Day and other | | | |
| Bills | 588,750 | | |
| | £38,305,594 | | £38,305,594 |

Jan. 28, 1864.

M. MARSHALL, Chief Cashier.

Births, Marriages, and Deaths.

MARRIAGES.

HARDING—BAKER.—Jan. 23, at Brunswick Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. E. J. Hartland, Mr. Henry George Harding, of Nugent-place, Cotham, to Elizabeth Ann, second daughter of Mr. Thomas Baker, Devizes. No cards.

EVANS—BESSELL.—Jan. 23, at Brunswick Chapel, Bristol, by the Rev. E. J. Hartland, Mr. Benjamin Evans, jun., of Blairston Ironworks, Monmouthshire, to Frances Hester, second daughter of Mr. W. Bessell, of Montpellier, Bristol.

BOLLAND—HEATON.—Jan. 23, at the Congregational Church, Regent-street, Barnsley, by the Rev. J. Oddy, Mr. John William Bolland, Batley, to Charlotte, second daughter of Mr. James Heaton, of Rose Cottage, Woolley, near Wakefield.

WEIR—BUNN.—Jan. 25, at Castle-street Congregational Church, Aberavenny, by the father of the bride, Mr. W. Weir, of Burn's Villa, Brynmawr, to Martha Ann, second daughter of the Rev. H. T. Bunn.

ALLEN—PROUT.—Jan. 25, at Hope Chapel, Clifton, by special licence, by the Rev. S. Luke, Mr. Edwin Alexander Allen, to Eliza, youngest daughter of the late Mr. W. Prout, of Launceston, Cornwall.

BRADBY—COOPER.—Jan. 27, at the New Church, Square-road, Halifax, by the Rev. W. Roberts, Mr. James Bradby, to Eliza, youngest daughter of Mr. Henry Cooper, all of Halifax.

KAY—HODGSON.—Jan. 27, at Sion Chapel, Bradford, by the Rev. J. P. Chown, Mr. John Kay, Bradford, to Margaret, eldest daughter of Thos. Hodgson, Esq., of Keighley.

WALKER—CROWTHER.—Jan. 27, at the Baptist Chapel, Lockwood, by the Rev. John Barker, assisted by the Rev. T. Pottenger, of Rawdon College, Mr. Alfred Walker, of Low Hills, Lindley, to Sarah, youngest daughter of H. Crowther, Esq., Lockwood. No cards.

COUMBE—HOLTON.—Jan. 27, at Stoke-by-Nayland Church, Suffolk, by the Rev. C. M. Torleese, Edward, son of E. Coumbe, Esq., Napier Lodge, Peckham-rye, to Susan, only daughter of Edward Holton, Esq., Shaddehwa. No cards.

LINDOP—SUTCLIFFE.—Jan. 28, at Longsight Independent Chapel, by the Rev. S. Clarkson, of Bocking, Mr. W. G. Lindop, to Emily Anne, youngest daughter of the late Rev. Jonathan Sutcliffe, of Ashton-under-Lyne and Longsight.

LEADER—PYE-SMITH.—Feb. 2, at Old Gravel-pit Chapel, Hackney, by the Rev. T. Binney and the Rev. J. Davies, Robert Eadon Leader, B.A., of the *Sheffield and Rotherham Independent*, youngest son of Robert Leader, Esq., of Sheffield, to Emily Sarah, second daughter of Ebenezer Pye-Smith, Esq., of Hackney. No cards.

DEATHS.

CHALCRAFT.—Jan. 9, Edward, aged nine years; and on 27, Ellen Maria, aged four years, of scarlet fever, the beloved children of E. Chalcraft, Esq., Liphook, Hants. They fell asleep in Jesus.

TURTON.—Jan. 19, aged eighty-four, Mr. William Turton, of Allerton Bywater. He had 14 daughters, and lived to see 114 grandchildren, and 76 great grandchildren, making a total of 204.

DAWSON.—Jan. 22, at his residence, Kingston-on-Thames, Mr. John Dawson, in the seventy-third year of his age.

WAUGH.—Jan. 24, at his residence, Camberwell-grove, in his seventy-seventh year, Thomas Waugh, Esq., eldest son of the late Rev. Alexander Waugh, D.D.

STERRY.—Jan. 28, at Oakfield Lodge, Crofton, Ann, the beloved wife of Richard Sterry, aged seventy-six.

WOOD.—Feb. 1, at Bournemouth, Hants, Elizabeth Ann, eldest daughter of George Wood, Esq., The Grange, Salford, Manchester.

GILBERT.—At Stamford-villas, Bowdon, Cheshire, after a long and painful illness, James Montgomery Gilbert, in his thirty-ninth year, youngest son of the late Rev. J. Gilbert, of Nottingham.

HOLLOWAY'S PILLS.—COLD WEATHER.—Turn which way you will, go where you please, persons will be found who have a ready word of praise for this Ointment. For chaps, chafes, scalds, bruises and sprains it is an invaluable remedy; for bad legs caused by accident or cold it may be confidently relied upon for effecting sound and permanent cure. In cases of swollen ankles, erysipelas, gout and rheumatism, Holloway's Ointment gives the greatest comfort by reducing the inflammation, cooling the blood, soothing the nerves, adjusting the circulation and expelling impurities. This Ointment should have a place in every nursery. It will cure the long list of skin affections which originate in childhood and gain strength with the child's growth.

Markets.

CORN EXCHANGE, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 1.

The supply of English wheat fresh up this morning was moderate, but liberal arrivals from the Baltic and American ports have come to hand. The inquiry was very steady, and English wheat was offered at the prices of Monday last. English and Foreign wheat was inactive, at previous prices. Flour in good request, at last week's prices. Peas and beans were a dull sale, at late rates. Arrivals of oats are moderate, and good qualities supported the value of Monday last. We have fair arrivals of cargoes for orders on the coast, which are held at previous rates. Barley was dull.

BREAD.—The prices of wheaten bread in the metropolis are from 6½d to 7d; household ditto, 5d to 6d.

BUTCHERS' MEAT, ISLINGTON, Monday, Feb. 1.

The supply of foreign beasts and sheep amounted to 2,166 head. In the corresponding week in 1853 we received 3,011; in 1852, 660; in 1851, 514; in 1850, 1,434; in 1849, 2,010; and in 1848, 680 head. There was an average time-of-year supply of foreign stock on offer in our market to-day. Sales progressed steadily for all descriptions, and prices were well supported. The receipts of beasts fresh up this morning from our own grazing districts was moderate, whilst its general quality was not quite equal to Monday last. The receipts from Scotland were good, and the general quality of the supply was prime. From Ireland the supply was small. The beef trade was steady, at prices fully equal to Monday last. The top figure for the best Scots and crosses was 5s 2d per 8lbs. From Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, and Cambridgeshire, we received 2,000 Scots and crosses; from other parts of England, 700 various breeds; from Scotland, 359 Scots and crosses; and, from Ireland, 160 oxen and heifers. The show of sheep was very moderate. The quality of most breeds, however, was good. The mutton trade was tolerably firm, and late rates were fully supported. The highest value for Downs was 6s 2d per 8lbs. About 600 shorn sheep were on offer. They sold at 1s per 8lbs beneath those in the wool. There were a few lambs on offer from Hampshire and Surrey, and they changed hands at from 6s 4d to 7s 0d per 8lbs. Calves were firm, at from 5s to 6s per 8lbs. The pork trade ruled steady, at full currencies.

Per 8lbs. to sink the Offal.

| | s. | d. | s. | d. | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|--------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Inf. coarse beasts | 3 | 8 | 4 | 0 | Prime Southdown | 5 | 10 | 6 | 0 |
| Second quality | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 | Lambs | 4 | 4 | 7 | 0 |
| Prime large oxen | 4 | 8 | 4 | 10 | Lge. coarse calves | 5 | 0 | 5 | 6 |
| Prime Scots, &c. | 5 | 0 | 5 | 2 | Prime small | 5 | 8 | 6 | 0 |
| Coarse inf. sheep | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6 | Large hogs | 3 | 6 | 4 | 0 |
| Second quality | 4 | 8 | 5 | 2 | Neatam. porkers | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Pr. coarse woolled | 5 | 4 | 5 | 8 | | | | | |

Suckling calves, 20s to 30s. Quarter-old store pigs, 20s to 26s each.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL, Monday, Feb. 1.

Only moderate supplies of meat have come to hand at these markets to-day, and the trade rules steady, at the following quotations:—

Per 8lbs by the carcass.

| | s. | d. | s. | d. | | s. | d. | s. | d. |
|-----------------|----|----|----|----|----------------|----|----|----|----|
| Inferior beef | 3 | 2 | 3 | 6 | Small pork | 4 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Middling ditto | 3 | 8 | 4 | 10 | Inf. mutton | 3 | 8 | 3 | 10 |
| Prime large do. | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | Middling ditto | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Do. small do. | 4 | 2 | 4 | 4 | Prime ditto | 4 | 6 | 4 | 8 |
| Large pork | 3 | 6 | 4 | 0 | Veal | 4 | 0 | 5 | 0 |

PRODUCE MARKET, TUESDAY, Feb. 2.

TEA.—The public sales of Assam have closed without any change to record in prices. China descriptions are dull, and remain at previous rates.

SUGAR.—The market has continued very dull, and owing to the large stocks on hand, prices in some instances have slightly given way. In the refined market quotations are without material change.

COFFEE.—The amount of business done in colonial has been to a fair extent, and good and fine qualities of plantation and native Ceylon have realised high rates.

RICE.—Only a moderate amount of business has been recorded in cleaned descriptions, without any material change in prices.

PROVISIONS, Monday, Feb. 1.—The arrivals last week from Ireland were 1,481 firkins butter, and 3,469 bales of bacon; and from foreign ports 11,894 casks butter, and 10 bales and 50 boxes of bacon. In the Irish butter market last week there was but a very limited amount of business transacted, without alteration to be noticed in prices. Foreign met a steady sale; best Dutch advanced to 12½s to 12½s. The bacon market ruled firm, and an advance of 1s per cwt was obtained.

POTATOES.—BOROUGH AND SPITALFIELDS, Monday, Feb. 1.—These markets continue to be fairly supplied with home-grown potatoes, both by land and water-carriage. Nearly all qualities move off slowly, and prices have in some instances given way. The currency is as follows:—Yorkshire Regents 70s to 90s, ditto Flukes 90s to 100s, ditto Rocks 65s to 75s, Perth, Forfar, and Fifeshire Regents 60s to 80s, ditto Rocks 60s to 70s, Kent and Essex Regents 60s to 80s per ton.

WOOL, Monday, Feb. 1.—Since our last report the transactions in nearly all kinds of wool have been limited. Prices generally continue to be steadily supported. The inquiry for export to the continent is only nominal. The supplies on offer are by no means extensive, but shearing has already commenced in some parts of the country.

FLAX, HEMP, COIR, &c., Saturday, Jan. 30.—The trade for flax continues firm, at the full rates of this day week. Riga 5½ to 7½, St. Petersburg 4½ to 5½, Egyptian 2½ to 3½ per ton. In hemp only a moderate business is doing; nevertheless, clean Russian qualities command 40l to 45l per ton. Jute is less active, and has further fallen 5s to 10s per ton. Coir goods are a slow sale, at barely late prices.

SEEDS, Monday, Feb. 1.—During the past week there has been an improved trade for seeds, but the principal business has been in red cloverseed, of which there is now a large supply of home-grown in our market, of various descriptions, and found buyers at prices varying from 45s to 76s. Foreign seed met more inquiry, and good and fine qualities of Bordeaux seed sold to-day at an advance of 3s on the values of Monday last. White seed was steady, without change in value. Trefoil was more active, and prices are improved. Canary-seed is slow in sale, without change in value.

OIL, Monday, Feb. 1.—The amount of business doing in oils is very moderate. Linseed sells slowly, and prices are 35s 3d per cwt on the spot. Rape is a slow sale, and foreign refined may be had at 41s 6d, brown at 33s to 39s 6d, Cochin coconut 46s, fine Lagos palm at 36s per cwt. Sperma was at 76l to 77l per tun. French spirits of turpentine have fallen to 71s per cwt. Refined petroleum is quoted at 2s to 2½d per gallon.

COALS, Monday, Feb. 1.—Market firm at the rates of last day. Hutton's 20s, South Hutton 20s, Haswell 20s, East Hartlepool 20s, Hartlepool 19s 6d, Harton 17s 6d, Tees 19s 6d, South Hartlepool 15s 6d, Hugh Hall 18s 6d, Hartley's 14s 9d, Belmont 17s 9d, Norton's Anthracite 22s. Left from last day, 95; fresh arrivals, 87.—Total, 182.

TALLOW, Monday, Feb. 1.—The tallow trade is quiet to-day, on rather easier terms. The quotation for P.Y.C. on the spot is 41s 6d per cwt. Town tallow realises 41s 3d net cash. Rough fat commands 2s 1½d per 8lbs.

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